





ported from some society somewhere, and because the importance of biological factors in shaping these roles is harder to assess than that of social factors, it is seriously argued that in the pill-and-loop society people will be happier and freer without any accepted sexual roles.

The psychology and what might be called the ecology of sex, are both disregarded. In fact, sex roles generally are patterned around the femaleness of nurturing children and those much quoted characters of Margaret Mead's: the sexy, fierce Mundugumor woman and the gentle, flower-child Arapesh man, are not of great importance in the overall context. And even in those societies where the women have the toughest luck to be in charge of the crops as well as of the children, there is no lack of sex-differentiation, or telling the girls from the boys; the girls are the pregnant, suckling ones. And women now spend little time pregnant and are not expected to suckle—in public, we may find ourselves needing more rather than less overt sex differentiation. "Does it matter if they look the same?" asks the author. In the long run, in view of the difficulty at all times of establishing an identity as a person and as male or female; of the need for the sexes to be stimulated just by the fact of difference; of the roots of war and myth in the opposition between maleness and femaleness—in the long run, yes. It is not only more fun to keep the differences, it is biologically adaptive and universally valid.

We regret that in our last advertisement the price of *The Domesday Geography of Eastern England* by H. G. Parry was quoted at £7.00 net instead of £10.00 net.



# Life begins at seventy-three

TERENCE PRITTE:  
Konrad Adenauer 1876-1967  
334pp plus 44 plates. Tom Stacey.  
£4.20.

In October, 1945, when the British Brigadier John Barracough dismissed the Mayor of Cologne for incompetence, he unknowingly made it possible for the old gentleman, already in his seventieth year, to go on to even higher things than control over his native city: in fact, to control over the Christian Democratic Union which was just being established, and to the Chancellorship of the Federal Republic of Germany. Adenauer's path to this post—which he was to hold from 1949 until 1963, a period longer than the entire life-span of the Weimar Republic—was to be eased by other unwitting allies too: in 1948 his bitter opponent Kurt Schumacher instructed the Social Democratic members of West Germany's Parliamentary council to vote for Adenauer as its President, thinking that at seventy-three he was certainly too old to use the post as a step to anything higher.

These episodes are recounted by Terence Pritte in a biography of

Adenauer which is certainly the most informative, perceptive and balanced study of his subject available. The author has made good use of the Cologne City Archives, of his conversations with an impressive number of Adenauer's colleagues and relatives, and of his own unrivalled experience of German politics as the *Manchester Guardian's* correspondent from 1946 until virtually the end of Adenauer's Chancellorship.

The book underlines the vital fact about Adenauer's approach to governing Germany—that he only took on the job after passing the age of three-score years and ten—by painting a full picture of the future Chancellor's early life. Several little-known facts come to light, including the distinctly confined circumstances in which Adenauer spent his childhood: his mother, the wife of a very minor Prussian civil servant, took in needlework to augment the family budget, and little Konrad earned his first pocket-money at the age of five by pulling out the tacking-threads for her. His university studies, again, were delayed by lack of money, until his father got him a modest scholarship from a Catholic foundation.

Mr Pritte is thus right to subtitle his book "a study in fortitude", and

he shows how this quality, inculcated very early in Adenauer's life, was reinforced by some of the experiences of his mature years. There was, for instance, the tragic death of Adenauer's first wife, who left him with a family of small children. His second wife was also to die before he became Chancellor. There was the tension caused in the Cologne area (Adenauer was Mayor of the city from 1917 until 1933) by the pull of the Rhineland separatism encouraged by the French in the years after 1918: Adenauer hated Prussia for its Protestantism and socialism the felt well every time he had to go to Berlin, and he was always drawn towards the "Carolingian" West Europe of France and Italy; but he rigidly opposed any form of Rhineland separatism going beyond autonomy within a German state. Again, there were the long years of enforced passivity between 1933, when the Nazis drove Adenauer out of Cologne, and 1945, when the Americans called him back for his second and short-lived term of office as its Mayor.

All these experiences tempered Adenauer's fortitude and strengthened the single-mindedness with which he pursued his aims as Chancellor. Mr Pritte quotes his disapproving

remark about the over-rapid rise to power of his intemperate and ill-fated Defence Minister, Franz Josef Strauss: "That didn't happen to me; and a good thing too!"

After devoting about a third of his book to the years before 1945, Mr Pritte gives most of the rest—quite understandably—to a detailed account of Adenauer's period of successive triumphs, down to the late 1950s. He takes us, in a style in which the trees always give convincing local colour without obscuring the wood, through Adenauer's achievements in setting up the Federal Republic, winning every election he fought, establishing Germany as an equal ally of the West and, in his grandfathers way, protecting his fellow-countrymen against the demons of neutralism, neo-nationalism, or indeed extremism of any kind.

There are a few small slips which are surprising in so massively well-informed and reliable an author: the great French Radical Edouard Herriot is described as a socialist, and the American High Commissioner John J. McCloy (a former holder of high political office in Washington) as "a banker and a somewhat unpolitical choice" for the Bonn appointment. Again, George Kennan was not American Ambassador to Moscow

when he penned the famous "X" memorandum in 1947, and the episode of Cripps's attempt to replace Churchill as Prime Minister in 1942 is also mentioned. Mr Pritte's most illuminating is his father. Once again there are errors to be corrected. The most serious concerns Ramsay MacDonald's contacts with Russian Communists in London, presumably in 1920, when his son was once again to deliver a note by hand to Lenin, but posted a by mistake in 1921. MacDonald's father was much more than a pay for the stamp, and he was especially because the "most not fall into the hands of the authorities". Clearly however MacDonald is not inclined to do any very sinister significance to the episode. His concern for his father's reputation is of a different kind. He is at pains to insist that MacDonald never became a member of the aristocracy or was of a socialist; and he consistently defends his conduct in 1931, a matter over which histo-

rians are increasingly inclined to support him.

Though never attempting a complete portrait, Mr MacDonald safely avoids the traps inherent in the art of writing character-sketches. These are neither incisive caricatures nor faded photographs: they are generous and sympathetic testimonials by a thoughtful observer who is always inclined to see the best rather than the worst in his fellow-men. Fortunately they do not exhaust Mr MacDonald's stock of acquaintances. He hints at some future account of "the great contemporary Chinese leaders"; and he throws out some passing observations on other men he has known—for instance, Cripps, Neville Chamberlain and Gandhi—on whom it would be valuable to have his more considered judgments. History cannot be written from documents alone. Personal reminiscences are also invaluable and may be fallible. But when one man is in a position to give a first-hand impression of so many great contemporaries from a single point of view, he can make a small but distinct contribution to history which cannot easily be replaced. Mr MacDonald has done so with perspicacity and charm.

One final query. The book's title is dated "November 1931" (the German translation has been highly praised) has been good for at least four months. It is a good reason why the English should have taken so much

## Desert victory

by KIRKBRIDE:  
Arab Campaign 1917-18  
192pp plus 8 pages of illustrations.  
Oxford, Devon: University Press  
£2.50.

Other men alive could have written this book. The British contribution to the Arab Revolt are all ably and ably. What is more, Sir Alec Kirkbridge, who has written this book, though he witnessed it, was not of the revolt. He belonged to another generation, and so saw it with operational detachment.

For convenience, he messed with the Arab regulars, and so joined in their operations first as an observer and later as a fully-fledged combatant. Having left with the British, he watched the British cavalry streaming over the plain towards Damascus. "They could have done it without us," the realist Nuri Pasha sadly remarked, imagining them to be about to take the town. But no. They had orders to build outside it, and the Arabs, who had thought that the British intended to them to advance via a south-east detour had been a ruse to rob them of their grain, entered first and alone. Sir Alec entered with them, and his account first of the bedlam and settlement of scores that followed, tells us of the chaos that the Arab general groomed by the British (perhaps by the Eastern Mediterranean Intelligence Agency) to take over the town had at the last moment been placed by the Turks in command of a retreating detachment, and reeked of his duty to get his men clear before changing sides. Such was the Arab sense of propriety in those noble days.

In Sir Alec's estimation, Nuri was right: the British could have won alone, but they could not have won so cheaply. He counts the Arab destruction of the railway lines round Damascus, and so of the Turkish escape route from Palestine, as a major contribution to the speed of Allenby's success. Therefore the Hashemite family of the Sharif, who risked all by rebelling, and the British, who organized and financed their venture, did not strike us pay in vain, and merit something better than the conjuncture with which Arabs remember them today. For between them they produced "an" awakening, though not "the" awakening, of an Arab nation. But what nation achieves a zenith of first thro?

The publisher of the book gives it firm university standing. To merit this, it needs to organize better proof-reading. More than one name is spelt in three different ways, or differently on the map and in the text.

shakhs divided the spoils, and all went home.

The spell that Lawrence cast survives the test of Sir Alec's stern appraisal. He found it gratifying to be invited to coffee round the balcony camp fire as Lawrence's attendants for first showering him with debris and then making a mock of his justifiable bad temper. He witnessed and describes the strange fixed look on Lawrence's face as he pushed ahead in order to be first into both Deraa and Damascus intentions which Kirkbridge resented at the time, seeing no point in overstraining tired men and animals simply to get there before "our side".

For convenience, he messed with the Arab regulars, and so joined in their operations first as an observer and later as a fully-fledged combatant. Having left with the British, he watched the British cavalry streaming over the plain towards Damascus. "They could have done it without us," the realist Nuri Pasha sadly remarked, imagining them to be about to take the town. But no. They had orders to build outside it, and the Arabs, who had thought that the British intended to them to advance via a south-east detour had been a ruse to rob them of their grain, entered first and alone. Sir Alec entered with them, and his account first of the bedlam and settlement of scores that followed, tells us of the chaos that the Arab general groomed by the British (perhaps by the Eastern Mediterranean Intelligence Agency) to take over the town had at the last moment been placed by the Turks in command of a retreating detachment, and reeked of his duty to get his men clear before changing sides. Such was the Arab sense of propriety in those noble days.

In Sir Alec's estimation, Nuri was right: the British could have won alone, but they could not have won so cheaply. He counts the Arab destruction of the railway lines round Damascus, and so of the Turkish escape route from Palestine, as a major contribution to the speed of Allenby's success. Therefore the Hashemite family of the Sharif, who risked all by rebelling, and the British, who organized and financed their venture, did not strike us pay in vain, and merit something better than the conjuncture with which Arabs remember them today. For between them they produced "an" awakening, though not "the" awakening, of an Arab nation. But what nation achieves a zenith of first thro?

The publisher of the book gives it firm university standing. To merit this, it needs to organize better proof-reading. More than one name is spelt in three different ways, or differently on the map and in the text.

# New Collins Books

April/May/June

## Fiction

THE WATERS OF ASWAN  
Michael Heim

In one of the most original thrillers in years the world views with alarm the breaking-up of the Aswan High Dam. This tense and suspenseful novel reads like a first-class documentary.  
10 April £1.75

THE ULTIMATE ACT  
Lawrence P. Buchanan

A story of terror and greed set in contemporary times with a flashback to the Nazi occupation.  
10 April £1.75

APPPOINTMENT IN ANDALUSIA  
May Muckintosh

A romantic suspense story set in Southern Spain where a Scottish school-teacher finds more excitement than she imagined for.  
10 April £1.75

THE DISTANT LAUGHTER  
Bryan Forbes

Bryan Forbes exposes the ill world in his witty and brilliantly humorous first novel. But this is also a love story, with a difference.  
21 April £1.80

THE DOCTOR'S TWO LIVES  
Elizabeth Solfer

The absorbing story of a doctor torn between his career and the woman he loves.  
21 April £1.80

THE SAVAGE DAY  
Jack Higgins

An outstanding thriller which brings to life the crime-cross of love, hate, cruelty and violence which makes the situation in Northern Ireland today.  
21 April £1.80

PARADISE SMITH  
Ronald Johnston

Set on a South Pacific Island, a story about a man, his attraction to a woman, his struggle to win her, and the woman who comes unexpectedly into his life.  
8 May £1.75

A GAME OF STATUES  
Anno Stevenson

Two defenceless women and a small boy become involved in a sinister version of the childhood game of statues, when mysterious strangers start to close in on the house in the creek.  
8 May £1.75

THUNDER ON SUNDAY  
Karon Campbell

Postponers and crowd on the Celtic Airways flight from Iceland to Glasgow numbered thirteen. When a thunderstorm forces the aircraft down on a remote Hebridean island where ancient cults still flourish, the number proves to hold its sinister significance.  
8 May £1.75

MAN'S ESTATE  
Jana Cleary

A compelling novel centred around the conflict between love and ambition in the life of a rich English aristocrat involved (first by position and then by choice) in the ruthless world of politics and high finance.  
22 May £1.80

THE LOST EMBASSY  
Adam Ferguson

A splendidly romantic and very funny story from the author of *Roman Go Home* which revolves around the crumbling, almost forgotten, Corinthian Embassy in darkest Belgravia.  
22 May £2.00

THE PERFECT CARRIER  
Shella Rosa

The author of *A Log Across the Road* presents a novel, a hair-raising tension set along the coast of the East Indies concerning two rival groups of Chinese—one communist, one occupied in smuggling drugs.  
6 June £1.75

## DEATH'S HEAD

Campbell Black  
Written with a striking originality and psychological insight, this tense story of confrontation in Berlin between an ex-concentration camp doctor and a former Jewish inmate.  
5 June £1.75

THE CHILD OF JULIAN FLYNN

Catherine Dupro  
Set mainly in Ireland, the story of a Roman Catholic priest, who renounces his vows but finds it painful to have to establish a real relationship with other people.  
5 June £1.80

THE HERO IN THE TOWER

H. H. Kirst  
An English woman who has made her home in Kenya describes her people, her adjustments to her new surroundings and the adventures that have befallen her and her husband. Collins/Harvill.  
22 May £1.75

MY FATHER'S HOUSE

Kathleen Conlon  
Still a schoolgirl when her father left home for no other reason, what Anne Blake looked upon as his betrayal and rejection has far-reaching and disastrous results upon her way of life.  
10 June £1.80

THE POLLINATION OF FLOWERS

Michael Proctor and Peter Yeo  
A New Naturalist main volume. A wonderfully illustrated book of great importance to all botanists, professional and amateur.  
22 May £4.00

WHEN I PUT OUT TO SEA

Nielette Milnes-Walker  
The remarkable story of how a young woman crossed the Atlantic single-handed—the first time that a woman has ever done this. Illustrated.  
22 May £2.50

A REASONABLE MAN

Roger Bushy 8 May £1.50  
A REASONABLE MAN  
R. G. CASEY 1951-60

A SECRET SINGING

Roy Lewis 5 June £1.50  
MURDER ON SHOW

Marion Johnson 5 June £1.50  
A SHADOW OF HIMSELF

Michael Delving 5 June £1.50  
NAKED TO THE GRAVE

Horry Carmichael 5 June £1.50

THE BIRDS OF BRITAIN AND EUROPE

Harman Helms, R. S. R. Fitter & John Parlow  
The most excellent paperback pocket bird guide ever published. A complete guide to every species and distinct subspecies.  
5 June £1.50

LISTEN TO THE WILD

Stannard Hart  
A well-known ornithologist's account of how she and her husband, Toni Hartson, cared for a very varied group of wild animals in their capacity as vets.  
19 June £2.50

THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE MEDITERRANEAN WORLD IN THE AGE OF PHILIP II

Fernand Braudel, translated by Ian Reynolds  
The most remarkable historical work to appear since the war. This book has transformed the writing of history from the narrow specialisations of diplomacy, politics, economics, etc., to a survey of a whole way of life over a vast yet homogeneous tract of space and time.  
19 June £2.50

THE MOUSETRAP MAN

Peter Saunders  
The fascinating autobiography of Peter Saunders, the producer of Agatha Christie's theatrical phenomenon, *The Mousetrap*.  
19 June £2.50

CHANCE AND NECESSITY

Jacques Monod  
A revolutionary philosophical statement whose explicit intention is to change Man's way of looking at himself.  
8 May £2.50

For further details please write to 14 St. James's Place London SW1

## Who are the true revolutionaries?

RICHARD GOMBIN:  
Les Origines du gauchisme  
192pp. Paris: Seuil. 5.30fr.

"Leftism" is still not a recognizable word in layman's English, as opposed to the technical vocabulary of communism. But *gauchisme* in French made a definitive breakthrough in 1968, and is now an indispensable part of the vocabulary of politics generally. It would be an exceptional number of any French newspaper nowadays in which you would not find the word somewhere.

Presumably there should be a market in France for a book with this title, among French newspaper readers who wish to know where this phenomenon comes from and how it has suddenly taken on such great importance. Such readers may be disappointed to find that Richard Gombin in his first chapter discards the "ception générale" (journalistic use of the term) in favour of a "definition" which restricts it to "selective", which turns out to exclude virtually all the political groups usually referred to as "gauchiste" in the French press. For such groups—Maoists, Trotskyites, etc.—describe themselves as Marxist-Leninist, in-

deed want themselves as truer disciples of Marx and Lenin than the "reformists", "bureaucrats", or even "traitors" who lead the French Communist Party; whereas M. Gombin defines *gauchisme* as "cette fraction du mouvement révolutionnaire qui offre, au vu de l'offre, une alternative radicale au marxisme-léninisme en tant que théorie du mouvement ouvrier et de son évolution".

The *gauchistes* who interest him are in fact hostile in varying degrees in organization as such, as is not all that surprising that they hardly figure in the lists of leftist organizations, which *Le Moule* publishes from time to time. They do however include Daniel Cohn-Bendit and his (now defunct) March 22 Movement, the Situationist International, and various groups which proclaim their belief in "to communism des conseils" or simply "la consultation", as well as the "Inimable" but ephemeral "comités d'action" and "comités d'occupation" thrown up by the revolt of May 1968 and by wildcat strikes before and since. M. Gombin makes no secret of his admiration for the May revolt, and what he admires about it especially is its spontaneous character, the fact that it occurred

outside the traditional organizations of the labour movement.

Using May as a stick with which to beat the Communist Party and the Confédération Générale du Travail is a familiar enough theme. But M. Gombin uses it on all political parties or would-be parties and all trade unions. Implicitly in this book (and explicitly in his contribution to the recent symposium, *Avantgarde Today*) he writes off the role of Leninist groups in the student revolt as virtually nil, which is probably unjust, at least to Alain Krivine's *Jeunesse Communiste*. That trade unionism has not only been bypassed by the wildcat strikes but is actually one of their targets. This contention leads him to write some rather awkward pages about the Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail, which he grudgingly recognizes as "un cadre possible pour l'activité gauchiste" in spite of being "marquée par un péché originel: celui d'être un syndicat".

M. Gombin describes the historical origins of *gauchisme*, so defined, under four main headings: criticism of Soviet bureaucracy, philosophical revisionism, criticism of everyday life, and theory of "communisme

des conseils". Of these the first started from Marxist-Leninist principles (Trotskyism), and the second and fourth at least from Marxist ones (Lukács, Korsch, Pannekoek), but all three led into a "remise en question" of these principles in the France of the 1950s and 1960s: the ex-Trotskyite splinter group *Socialisme ou Barbarie*, the review *Argument*, and a whole litter of tiny "councilist" groups. The third has a root origin in the Marxism of Henri Lefebvre and in surrealism, alongside from both being synthesized in the publications of the Situationist International.

From this source came the most radical departures from Marxism in the *gauchiste* mix. Indeed sometimes the Situationists seem closer to P. R. Leavis than to Marx. They attack the modern emphasis on the quantifiable, on production and productivity, assert that "la révolution des structures économiques ne pourra garantir l'accomplissement de la poésie", and wish to do away with labour altogether, replacing it by *le jeu* ("dans le sens d'une activité spontanément consensuelle et créatrice"). M. Gombin stresses that many of the slogans to be seen in the universities during May-June 1968 were of Situationist

des conseils".

Other men alive could have written this book. The British contribution to the Arab Revolt are all ably and ably. What is more, Sir Alec Kirkbridge, who has written this book, though he witnessed it, was not of the revolt. He belonged to another generation, and so saw it with operational detachment.

For convenience, he messed with the Arab regulars, and so joined in their operations first as an observer and later as a fully-fledged combatant. Having left with the British, he watched the British cavalry streaming over the plain towards Damascus. "They could have done it without us," the realist Nuri Pasha sadly remarked, imagining them to be about to take the town. But no. They had orders to build outside it, and the Arabs, who had thought that the British intended to them to advance via a south-east detour had been a ruse to rob them of their grain, entered first and alone. Sir Alec entered with them, and his account first of the bedlam and settlement of scores that followed, tells us of the chaos that the Arab general groomed by the British (perhaps by the Eastern Mediterranean Intelligence Agency) to take over the town had at the last moment been placed by the Turks in command of a retreating detachment, and reeked of his duty to get his men clear before changing sides. Such was the Arab sense of propriety in those noble days.

In Sir Alec's estimation, Nuri was right: the British could have won alone, but they could not have won so cheaply. He counts the Arab destruction of the railway lines round Damascus, and so of the Turkish escape route from Palestine, as a major contribution to the speed of Allenby's success. Therefore the Hashemite family of the Sharif, who risked all by rebelling, and the British, who organized and financed their venture, did not strike us pay in vain, and merit something better than the conjuncture with which Arabs remember them today. For between them they produced "an" awakening, though not "the" awakening, of an Arab nation. But what nation achieves a zenith of first thro?

The publisher of the book gives it firm university standing. To merit this, it needs to organize better proof-reading. More than one name is spelt in three different ways, or differently on the map and in the text.

## Testimonials to top people

MALCOLM MACDONALD:  
Tithon and Others  
287pp. Collins: £2.25.

No public figure living today has enjoyed a longer career at the highest level of government than Malcolm MacDonald. It is now more than forty years since he was expelled from the Labour Party for supporting his father in forming the National Government. He first became a Cabinet Minister in 1935, when only the most senior member of the present Cabinet was even a member of the House of Commons. Since that date there have been few periods when he did not hold an important appointment, usually of a quasi-diplomatic character. Mr MacDonald does not deny that he owed his prolonged success in part to good luck, and initially to even greater part to his parentage. Indeed, he broadly hints that his father continued in office longer than was desirable, or even useful out of a wish to promote the career of his son. But although family loyalty may have served as a launching-pad, it could not have kept

such a career in orbit for more than thirty years without exceptional merit on the part of Mr MacDonald. As in his earlier autobiography, the patient and strength of character which won him success show in a modest and attractive light through these reminiscences of his outstanding achievements.

Mr MacDonald's career involved him in long periods abroad—in North America, South-East Asia, Central Africa—as well as the British Isles. No contemporary except Lord Mountbatten could have written from first-hand knowledge of so many leaders of different nationalities. They include the Irishman de Valera, the Englishman Winston Churchill, the Indonesian Sukarno, the Cambodian Prince Sihanouk, the Indian Nehru, the African Konyakia, and the author's Scottish father. He writes of all of them, the same discriminating sympathy, which forgives him because it understands him. Although Mr MacDonald makes no attempt to draw general conclusions or point a moral, it is easy to see some of the

common characteristics and weaknesses of his subjects. All were men of strong appeal to the common people, with whom they in turn felt a deep sympathy; all were believers in democracy, however autocratic or paternalist their attitudes towards it might be; all were persuasive orators, and all very different styles.

Mr MacDonald does not exempt his own father from this last criticism: it would be historically impossible to do so. Perhaps Prince Sihanouk might be exempted, since he lost power at an unusually early age. But his case shows that there are other reasons besides a failure of mental and physical powers for being dispensable from office. Sihanouk is the only one in the book who could be labelled a playboy, though elements of the same kind of personality are to be found in Sukarno as well. But these examples serve to underline Mr MacDonald's own perspective

ness. He could appreciate the merits of a playboy as well as those of sober statesmen, and he was capable of playing skilfully to the gallery himself. He makes no apology for some of his own contributions to the entertainment industry of southern Asia, including the celebrated photograph of a couple of half-naked girls, the unselfconsciousness of his treatment of this episode is indeed a good example of his unique success as a diplomatist. As he points out, the photograph served greatly to enhance his prestige with Sukarno, who assumed that he was "a kindred spirit".

Linked with his easy-going manner was a complete absence of prejudice, either racial or political. He very soon saw through the prejudices of Whitehall against the Kikuyu, for instance, and established a relationship with Kenyatta which made it possible for the British Government to retreat without too much loss of dignity from the attempt to associate them with the Mau Mau rebellion. It is a pity that he was not available in Cyprus

twenty years ago, or in Rhodes today. But it is rarely that crises can be foreseen, and all too rarely that men of Mr MacDonald's calibre are available to meet them. Moreover, when they are available they may never get the credit they deserve. The most interesting example of this is the case of Valer. The most important of the years before the Second World War, and again in 1940. This is the few episodes to which MacDonald brings some new illumination. Apart from the major importance of his new historians, it is also marked by an enchantingly funny anecdote (as the English say) which happened in Ireland. It concerned a narrow escape of the Irish ship *De Valera's* submergence in the situation of the ship, and the fact that the ship was in the hands of the British Government to retreat without too much loss of dignity from the attempt to associate them with the Mau Mau rebellion. It is a pity that he was not available in Cyprus

pleasing new anecdotes. His







# The national art | Deep in the past

Anyone seriously interested in the origins and development of man can profitably read this book, and indeed should do so; but to the uninitiated student of Paleolithic archaeology it is of course one of the most important spaces for many years. Most space is given to a detailed account of the excavations of the industries, through the main stratigraphic divisions, from the oldest upwards. There are excellent illustrations, and percentage tables of tool types accompany the detailed descriptions of the artefacts. Separate chapters give summary reports on the geological background and stratigraphy of the deposits (by R. L. Hay), the finds of hominid remains, the faunae from the living sites, and the evidence for the use of bone. The summary chapters, however, are the most interesting, for they consider, among other things, the development of the industries through time, and argues for two quite separate traditions, indigenous Developed Oldwan and Intrusive Early Acheulian, from Middle Bed II onwards. The relationship of different hominid types to these is considered. Analyses of the industries are by no means confined to typology, and their nature and significance of the different kinds of occurrence are carefully examined. A few brief comparisons are made with other sites, mainly within Africa. Among the illustrations, special mention should be made of the last few, of the plans of some of the most important Bed I living sites.

ment or "ceremonial circle," whose size and elaboration place it in the same class as Avebury and Stonehenge, other major Wesssex bengs. Improvements to the main road involved major damage to the site, before which excavations were carried out. Henges, something peculiarly English, and especially at Stonehenge, and these excavations revealed important details of the complex internal timbered structures, interpreted as roofed buildings. Work by G.I. Walwyn, at other henges in Wesssex and elsewhere, has much illuminated this class of monument, and his chapter here will be welcomed. The Dorchester Walls, excavations also produced a large and important series of Grooved Ware sherds, studied here in detail by I. H. Longworth. This volume book many admirable qualities as straightforward detailed excavations report, and the more general chapter give it an extra usefulness.

**Taking up  
Pottery**  
**EMMANUEL  
COOPER**  
176pp 8pp illus £1.75  
**ARTHUR BARKER**

3 Whiskey Co.  



## Waiting, waiting

PEGGY MILLER:  
James  
344pp. Allen and Unwin. £5.

"James" is Prince James Francis Edward Stuart, the Old Pretender, the Old Chevalier, the Old Jacobite. Though it was in his name that the four Jacobite attempts—two of them formidable—to upset the Protestant succession were made, he has had only two previous full biographies, both published sixty-five years ago, and one short one, *The Old Chevalier* by Peggy Miller's bibliography by Alistair and Henrietta Taylor, in 1934.

From these as well as other sources James's character is perfectly well known. He was a quiet, upright and kindly man who would have filled a private station admirably and might have made a respectable king. An exile all his life, barred from the British crown not only by existing circumstances but by his refusal to change his religion, he is historically significant only as a figurehead. And there is no mystery about him, for the documentation of a court in exile whose principal occupation was writing letters is voluminous to the point of satiety.

This cannot, then, be called a book that was needed. But it is handsomely printed, well illustrated, and to be commended, with reservations, to that large body of readers for whom Jacobite history can never be too often rewritten. The author has found some new material, especially in the vast hoard of Stuart papers in Windsor Castle, and her work is shapely and readable; though a little more care might have purged the text of frequent lapses in syntax. She keeps attention fixed on her hero, turning aside for only a page or two to describe the risings of 1719 or 1745-46 in which he took no part. Not only James but his parents, his brother Henry and half-brother James, Duke of Berwick, and his wife Clementina are portrayed with sympathy and justice.

Unlike the Taylors, Miss Miller is unfamiliar with Scottish names and places, so that we meet with Lord "Pittidale", Lord "George" (for Grange) and "the Cape of Buccuiness" (for Buccu Ness), and learn with surprise that there was a "Royal

Palace" at Secon. A passage about James's brief stay in Scotland in 1719 has four footnotes in seven lines. Oddly of all is a strategic assessment which makes Stirling command "the best entry from England into Scotland" and asserts that Edinburgh and Dumfries "overlooked" England to the south—for not even the sketch-map here provided places the Border between Forth and Clyde.

Miss Miller is unaffectedly partial. She sees James's whole story through eyes which might be those of the most devoted of his followers in the shadowy court at Saint-Germain, Bar-le-Duc, Avignon, Urbino or Rome, with the unwavering assumption that he was for his whole lifetime a *de jure* King of England, Scotland, Wales [sic] and Ireland. That was a tenable claim from his father's death in 1701 until 1707, but from May 1 of that year there was a new kingdom, Great Britain, the written constitution of which restricted the royal succession to Sophia of Hanover and her heirs, "being Protestants". Hence James was never *de jure* King of Great Britain.

France and other Continental powers recognized James's title after his father's death, partly because Great Britain's enemies saw the nuisance value of the Jacobites and actively supported them when—and only when—it served their interests; France in 1708, 1715 and 1745; Spain in 1719. But no ruler recognized the title of his son, Prince Charles Edward, the Act of Union, which destroyed the basis of the *ius*, was a turning-point in Jacobite fortunes. Hence James's manifesto of 1745 denounced "the pretended Union" and "No Union" was one of the Jacobite watchwords. An uncomfortable fact had to be wished away.

This book, however, does not mention the Act of Union at all except to state that in 1706 James wrote to "the Scots" to hinder negotiations for it. The omission indicates Miss Miller's attitude. James lived to be seventy-seven and "all that time he had been waiting for something to happen which never did, but he had never given up his dream." His biographer's ability to share the dream, taking reality and without incident the Jacobite viewpoint, accounts for the sympathy and sincerity of her study.

## Scotland for the English

CHARLES HENDRY DAND:  
The Mighty Affair  
198pp. Oliver and Boyd. £1.95.

Mr Dand deserves a hearty vote of thanks from all friends of candour: he has broken the strange inhibition which prevents students of history from writing a study of one of the great events in the history of the country—the union of England and Scotland in 1707, which Defoe called "this mighty affair". Before Mr Dand's book appeared, it seems that no one in this generation had written a full-length historical study of these important and very exciting happenings. Of course they are mentioned in every history of England or Scotland, but usually with fairly averted eyes; in recent times only Matheson at the Scottish end and Trevelyan at the English have told the story at reasonable length; to which one must add the interesting fifty-year-old commentary, not history, by Dicey and Rail, and the short introduction to the late G. S. Pryde's edition of the text.

Why this long silence? No one could call the story still, nor is it without lessons of statesmanship for later times. (One would think that young academics would be competing with each other to fill the strange gap with publishable PhD theses. But, until Mr Dand came along, the subject remained profoundly unfashionable. John Prebble, the Homer of present-day Scottish history, has not touched it. This perhaps gives one of the clues; what he and most contemporary Scots like is the Rob Roy tragedy side of Scotland's past or, as Jo Grimond recently put it with rather less clarity, a "sort of twilight mush of sentiment for doubtful causes". The Union is not one of these. Taken as a whole, despite a poor start and present discontents, it is a splendid

little Nicol Lurie success-story, and that is a very vulgar theme. An appeal in these columns (May 15, 1969) for the republication of Defoe's splendid *History of the Union*, out of print since the eighteenth century, has met with stony silence in Great Britain, though there are hopes of action in Southern Illinois.

The main reason, of course, is the resurgence of Scottish national feeling and the desire of the Scots to run their own business. But that is another matter altogether. Mr Dand ends his book by quoting Pryde's sensible remark:

The practical question of the Union's full relevance to mid-twentieth century conditions need not be confused with the historical assessment of its past contribution to the welfare of Britain. No change made hereafter should be the occasion for reviving those who in 1706-7 did what seemed to them to be best for the two countries, or for regretting what has been a noble, unique, and on the whole remarkably successful experiment.

These are Mr Dand's sentiments too, and he rightly refrains from giving his readers any clue to his views on the best constitution for present-day Scotland.

In any event, whatever one's feelings may be about the events of 1707, there is nothing but gain in studying them. One hopes that Mr Dand—whose book is deliberately popular history, with no footnotes and little pretence to go beyond what has already been discovered and recorded—may start an academic avalanche.

As popular history, *The Mighty Affair* is extremely good, and should be read by all Scots, whatever their viewpoint; it may even interest English readers, whose indifference to the issues concerned has been well known to Scotland for centuries. The Union was an extraordinary triumph of good sense and acceptance of the

inevitable. It was also a democratic, as was the Settlement where the name of the actant unit. A plebiscite vote that such a thing was in those times would have produced an overwhelming majority against the Union. But it has failed to produce any workable alternative. Cameronians and Catholics, rolling side by side against one could reasonably disagree. The chief effect seems to have been to neutralize trends already present during the previous period, towards greater population mobility, birth control, and lower infantile mortality. From the middle of the eighteenth century there had been a marked increase in the numbers of both illegitimate births and pregnant brides, and from 1789 to 1839 the latter represented 24 per cent of all brides. Some extremely thorough work in the records of neighbouring areas has also enabled M. Lachiver to trace the practice of putting babies out to wet-nurses: Parisian babies came to Meulan, and the bourgeoisie of the town sent their infants out to the villages.

Although Meulan was a tiny town, with less than 2,000 inhabitants, it possessed this hierarchy of judicial officials, until they were swept away with the Revolution. Châteauneuf, with a population of over 5,000, was also dominated by the class of royal officials, reinforced in this case by those dependent on the County. While M. Lachiver has based his work on the parish registers and the *état civil*, Marcel Couturier has relied heavily on the records of the notaries for his material. One very odd feature of his book is a lengthy introduction explaining his use of computer techniques in reconstructing social structures. This has no discernible relation to the main text, and would really have been more suitable for separate publication.

Within these self-imposed limits all these books are extremely well done, and have a good deal to offer

## HISTORY

## Communities in detail

MARCEL LACHIVER:  
La Population de Meulan du XVIIIe au XIXe siècle  
334pp. £3.25.

MARCEL COUTURIER:  
Recherches sur les structures sociales de Châteauneuf, 1525-1789  
244pp. £3.25.

ANNE ZINK:  
Azeret: La vie d'une communauté rurale à la fin du XVIIIe siècle  
312pp. £3.60.

PAUL SEVPEL: Distributed by Piers of Oxford.

These three volumes, all published under the auspices of the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes in the series "Démographies et sociétés", exemplify current trends in French historical studies. Each represents an intensive study of the manuscript and archival sources for a single community, either town or village. The results of the investigations are presented in great detail, with elaborate tables to provide the required statistical stuff. The books give a curious impression of having reached some kind of historical bedrock: if they cannot answer a question, it is because the evidence is lacking, and probably never existed. Microscopic research of this type is demanding on readers as well as on authors, and it cannot be pretended that these works are of much interest to any but the real specialist. In some they are primary sources to which other historians will turn for their evidence. This is very much scientific history, with no concessions to literary grace, and a rigorous refusal to speculate beyond the limits of the evidence.

Within these self-imposed limits all these books are extremely well done, and have a good deal to offer

the student of Ancient Régime society and demography. Marcel Lachiver's work on Meulan is the most restricted in that it concentrates almost exclusively on demography, but in this field it must join the limited number of classic studies on which our knowledge of the populations of pre-industrial France is based. It is unusual in that it does not stop in 1789 but in 1870, and this enables M. Lachiver to show just how far the traditional patterns were disrupted by the Revolution. The chief effect seems to have been to neutralize trends already present during the previous period, towards greater population mobility, birth control, and lower infantile mortality. From the middle of the eighteenth century there had been a marked increase in the numbers of both illegitimate births and pregnant brides, and from 1789 to 1839 the latter represented 24 per cent of all brides. Some extremely thorough work in the records of neighbouring areas has also enabled M. Lachiver to trace the practice of putting babies out to wet-nurses: Parisian babies came to Meulan, and the bourgeoisie of the town sent their infants out to the villages.

Although Meulan was a tiny town, with less than 2,000 inhabitants, it possessed this hierarchy of judicial officials, until they were swept away with the Revolution. Châteauneuf, with a population of over 5,000, was also dominated by the class of royal officials, reinforced in this case by those dependent on the County. While M. Lachiver has based his work on the parish registers and the *état civil*, Marcel Couturier has relied heavily on the records of the notaries for his material. One very odd feature of his book is a lengthy introduction explaining his use of computer techniques in reconstructing social structures. This has no discernible relation to the main text, and would really have been more suitable for separate publication.

Within these self-imposed limits all these books are extremely well done, and have a good deal to offer

the student of Ancient Régime society and demography. Marcel Lachiver's work on Meulan is the most restricted in that it concentrates almost exclusively on demography, but in this field it must join the limited number of classic studies on which our knowledge of the populations of pre-industrial France is based. It is unusual in that it does not stop in 1789 but in 1870, and this enables M. Lachiver to show just how far the traditional patterns were disrupted by the Revolution. The chief effect seems to have been to neutralize trends already present during the previous period, towards greater population mobility, birth control, and lower infantile mortality. From the middle of the eighteenth century there had been a marked increase in the numbers of both illegitimate births and pregnant brides, and from 1789 to 1839 the latter represented 24 per cent of all brides. Some extremely thorough work in the records of neighbouring areas has also enabled M. Lachiver to trace the practice of putting babies out to wet-nurses: Parisian babies came to Meulan, and the bourgeoisie of the town sent their infants out to the villages.

Although Meulan was a tiny town, with less than 2,000 inhabitants, it possessed this hierarchy of judicial officials, until they were swept away with the Revolution. Châteauneuf, with a population of over 5,000, was also dominated by the class of royal officials, reinforced in this case by those dependent on the County. While M. Lachiver has based his work on the parish registers and the *état civil*, Marcel Couturier has relied heavily on the records of the notaries for his material. One very odd feature of his book is a lengthy introduction explaining his use of computer techniques in reconstructing social structures. This has no discernible relation to the main text, and would really have been more suitable for separate publication.

Within these self-imposed limits all these books are extremely well done, and have a good deal to offer

the student of Ancient Régime society and demography. Marcel Lachiver's work on Meulan is the most restricted in that it concentrates almost exclusively on demography, but in this field it must join the limited number of classic studies on which our knowledge of the populations of pre-industrial France is based. It is unusual in that it does not stop in 1789 but in 1870, and this enables M. Lachiver to show just how far the traditional patterns were disrupted by the Revolution. The chief effect seems to have been to neutralize trends already present during the previous period, towards greater population mobility, birth control, and lower infantile mortality. From the middle of the eighteenth century there had been a marked increase in the numbers of both illegitimate births and pregnant brides, and from 1789 to 1839 the latter represented 24 per cent of all brides. Some extremely thorough work in the records of neighbouring areas has also enabled M. Lachiver to trace the practice of putting babies out to wet-nurses: Parisian babies came to Meulan, and the bourgeoisie of the town sent their infants out to the villages.

Although Meulan was a tiny town, with less than 2,000 inhabitants, it possessed this hierarchy of judicial officials, until they were swept away with the Revolution. Châteauneuf, with a population of over 5,000, was also dominated by the class of royal officials, reinforced in this case by those dependent on the County. While M. Lachiver has based his work on the parish registers and the *état civil*, Marcel Couturier has relied heavily on the records of the notaries for his material. One very odd feature of his book is a lengthy introduction explaining his use of computer techniques in reconstructing social structures. This has no discernible relation to the main text, and would really have been more suitable for separate publication.

Within these self-imposed limits all these books are extremely well done, and have a good deal to offer

the student of Ancient Régime society and demography. Marcel Lachiver's work on Meulan is the most restricted in that it concentrates almost exclusively on demography, but in this field it must join the limited number of classic studies on which our knowledge of the populations of pre-industrial France is based. It is unusual in that it does not stop in 1789 but in 1870, and this enables M. Lachiver to show just how far the traditional patterns were disrupted by the Revolution. The chief effect seems to have been to neutralize trends already present during the previous period, towards greater population mobility, birth control, and lower infantile mortality. From the middle of the eighteenth century there had been a marked increase in the numbers of both illegitimate births and pregnant brides, and from 1789 to 1839 the latter represented 24 per cent of all brides. Some extremely thorough work in the records of neighbouring areas has also enabled M. Lachiver to trace the practice of putting babies out to wet-nurses: Parisian babies came to Meulan, and the bourgeoisie of the town sent their infants out to the villages.

Although Meulan was a tiny town, with less than 2,000 inhabitants, it possessed this hierarchy of judicial officials, until they were swept away with the Revolution. Châteauneuf, with a population of over 5,000, was also dominated by the class of royal officials, reinforced in this case by those dependent on the County. While M. Lachiver has based his work on the parish registers and the *état civil*, Marcel Couturier has relied heavily on the records of the notaries for his material. One very odd feature of his book is a lengthy introduction explaining his use of computer techniques in reconstructing social structures. This has no discernible relation to the main text, and would really have been more suitable for separate publication.

Within these self-imposed limits all these books are extremely well done, and have a good deal to offer

the student of Ancient Régime society and demography. Marcel Lachiver's work on Meulan is the most restricted in that it concentrates almost exclusively on demography, but in this field it must join the limited number of classic studies on which our knowledge of the populations of pre-industrial France is based. It is unusual in that it does not stop in 1789 but in 1870, and this enables M. Lachiver to show just how far the traditional patterns were disrupted by the Revolution. The chief effect seems to have been to neutralize trends already present during the previous period, towards greater population mobility, birth control, and lower infantile mortality. From the middle of the eighteenth century there had been a marked increase in the numbers of both illegitimate births and pregnant brides, and from 1789 to 1839 the latter represented 24 per cent of all brides. Some extremely thorough work in the records of neighbouring areas has also enabled M. Lachiver to trace the practice of putting babies out to wet-nurses: Parisian babies came to Meulan, and the bourgeoisie of the town sent their infants out to the villages.

Although Meulan was a tiny town, with less than 2,000 inhabitants, it possessed this hierarchy of judicial officials, until they were swept away with the Revolution. Châteauneuf, with a population of over 5,000, was also dominated by the class of royal officials, reinforced in this case by those dependent on the County. While M. Lachiver has based his work on the parish registers and the *état civil*, Marcel Couturier has relied heavily on the records of the notaries for his material. One very odd feature of his book is a lengthy introduction explaining his use of computer techniques in reconstructing social structures. This has no discernible relation to the main text, and would really have been more suitable for separate publication.

Within these self-imposed limits all these books are extremely well done, and have a good deal to offer

the student of Ancient Régime society and demography. Marcel Lachiver's work on Meulan is the most restricted in that it concentrates almost exclusively on demography, but in this field it must join the limited number of classic studies on which our knowledge of the populations of pre-industrial France is based. It is unusual in that it does not stop in 1789 but in 1870, and this enables M. Lachiver to show just how far the traditional patterns were disrupted by the Revolution. The chief effect seems to have been to neutralize trends already present during the previous period, towards greater population mobility, birth control, and lower infantile mortality. From the middle of the eighteenth century there had been a marked increase in the numbers of both illegitimate births and pregnant brides, and from 1789 to 1839 the latter represented 24 per cent of all brides. Some extremely thorough work in the records of neighbouring areas has also enabled M. Lachiver to trace the practice of putting babies out to wet-nurses: Parisian babies came to Meulan, and the bourgeoisie of the town sent their infants out to the villages.

Although Meulan was a tiny town, with less than 2,000 inhabitants, it possessed this hierarchy of judicial officials, until they were swept away with the Revolution. Châteauneuf, with a population of over 5,000, was also dominated by the class of royal officials, reinforced in this case by those dependent on the County. While M. Lachiver has based his work on the parish registers and the *état civil*, Marcel Couturier has relied heavily on the records of the notaries for his material. One very odd feature of his book is a lengthy introduction explaining his use of computer techniques in reconstructing social structures. This has no discernible relation to the main text, and would really have been more suitable for separate publication.

Within these self-imposed limits all these books are extremely well done, and have a good deal to offer

the student of Ancient Régime society and demography. Marcel Lachiver's work on Meulan is the most restricted in that it concentrates almost exclusively on demography, but in this field it must join the limited number of classic studies on which our knowledge of the populations of pre-industrial France is based. It is unusual in that it does not stop in 1789 but in 1870, and this enables M. Lachiver to show just how far the traditional patterns were disrupted by the Revolution. The chief effect seems to have been to neutralize trends already present during the previous period, towards greater population mobility, birth control, and lower infantile mortality. From the middle of the eighteenth century there had been a marked increase in the numbers of both illegitimate births and pregnant brides, and from 1789 to 1839 the latter represented 24 per cent of all brides. Some extremely thorough work in the records of neighbouring areas has also enabled M. Lachiver to trace the practice of putting babies out to wet-nurses: Parisian babies came to Meulan, and the bourgeoisie of the town sent their infants out to the villages.

Although Meulan was a tiny town, with less than 2,000 inhabitants, it possessed this hierarchy of judicial officials, until they were swept away with the Revolution. Châteauneuf, with a population of over 5,000, was also dominated by the class of royal officials, reinforced in this case by those dependent on the County. While M. Lachiver has based his work on the parish registers and the *état civil*, Marcel Couturier has relied heavily on the records of the notaries for his material. One very odd feature of his book is a lengthy introduction explaining his use of computer techniques in reconstructing social structures. This has no discernible relation to the main text, and would really have been more suitable for separate publication.

Within these self-imposed limits all these books are extremely well done, and have a good deal to offer

the student of Ancient Régime society and demography. Marcel Lachiver's work on Meulan is the most restricted in that it concentrates almost exclusively on demography, but in this field it must join the limited number of classic studies on which our knowledge of the populations of pre-industrial France is based. It is unusual in that it does not stop in 1789 but in 1870, and this enables M. Lachiver to show just how far the traditional patterns were disrupted by the Revolution. The chief effect seems to have been to neutralize trends already present during the previous period, towards greater population mobility, birth control, and lower infantile mortality. From the middle of the eighteenth century there had been a marked increase in the numbers of both illegitimate births and pregnant brides, and from 1789 to 1839 the latter represented 24 per cent of all brides. Some extremely thorough work in the records of neighbouring areas has also enabled M. Lachiver to trace the practice of putting babies out to wet-nurses: Parisian babies came to Meulan, and the bourgeoisie of the town sent their infants out to the villages.

Although Meulan was a tiny town, with less than 2,000 inhabitants, it possessed this hierarchy of judicial officials, until they were swept away with the Revolution. Châteauneuf, with a population of over 5,000, was also dominated by the class of royal officials, reinforced in this case by those dependent on the County. While M. Lachiver has based his work on the parish registers and the *état civil*, Marcel Couturier has relied heavily on the records of the notaries for his material. One very odd feature of his book is a lengthy introduction explaining his use of computer techniques in reconstructing social structures. This has no discernible relation to the main text, and would really have been more suitable for separate publication.

Within these self-imposed limits all these books are extremely well done, and have a good deal to offer

the student of Ancient Régime society and demography. Marcel Lachiver's work on Meulan is the most restricted in that it concentrates almost exclusively on demography, but in this field it must join the limited number of classic studies on which our knowledge of the populations of pre-industrial France is based. It is unusual in that it does not stop in 1789 but in 1870, and this enables M. Lachiver to show just how far the traditional patterns were disrupted by the Revolution. The chief effect seems to have been to neutralize trends already present during the previous period, towards greater population mobility, birth control, and lower infantile mortality. From the middle of the eighteenth century there had been a marked increase in the numbers of both illegitimate births and pregnant brides, and from 1789 to 1839 the latter represented 24 per cent of all brides. Some extremely thorough work in the records of neighbouring areas has also enabled M. Lachiver to trace the practice of putting babies out to wet-nurses: Parisian babies came to Meulan, and the bourgeoisie of the town sent their infants out to the villages.

Although Meulan was a tiny town, with less than 2,000 inhabitants, it possessed this hierarchy of judicial officials, until they were swept away with the Revolution. Châteauneuf, with a population of over 5,000, was also dominated by the class of royal officials, reinforced in this case by those dependent on the County. While M. Lachiver has based his work on the parish registers and the *état civil*, Marcel Couturier has relied heavily on the records of the notaries for his material. One very odd feature of his book is a lengthy introduction explaining his use of computer techniques in reconstructing social structures. This has no discernible relation to the main text, and would really have been more suitable for separate publication.

Within these self-imposed limits all these books are extremely well done, and have a good deal to offer

the student of Ancient Régime society and demography. Marcel Lachiver's work on Meulan is the most restricted in that it concentrates almost exclusively on demography, but in this field it must join the limited number of classic studies on which our knowledge of the populations of pre-industrial France is based. It is unusual in that it does not stop in 1789 but in 1870, and this enables M. Lachiver to show just how far the traditional patterns were disrupted by the Revolution. The chief effect seems to have been to neutralize trends already present during the previous period, towards greater population mobility, birth control, and lower infantile mortality. From the middle of the eighteenth century there had been a marked increase in the numbers of both illegitimate births and pregnant brides, and from 1789 to 1839 the latter represented 24 per cent of all brides. Some extremely thorough work in the records of neighbouring areas has also enabled M. Lachiver to trace the practice of putting babies out to wet-nurses: Parisian babies came to Meulan, and the bourgeoisie of the town sent their infants out to the villages.

Although Meulan was a tiny town, with less than 2,000 inhabitants, it possessed this hierarchy of judicial officials, until they were swept away with the Revolution. Châteauneuf, with a population of over 5,000, was also dominated by the class of royal officials, reinforced in this case by those dependent on the County. While M. Lachiver has based his work on the parish registers and the *état civil*, Marcel Couturier has relied heavily on the records of the notaries for his material. One very odd feature of his book is a lengthy introduction explaining his use of computer techniques in reconstructing social structures. This has no discernible relation to the main text, and would really have been more suitable for separate publication.

Within these self-imposed limits all these books are extremely well done, and have a good deal to offer

the student of Ancient Régime society and demography. Marcel Lachiver's work on Meulan is the most restricted in that it concentrates almost exclusively on demography, but in this field it must join the limited number of classic studies on which our knowledge of the populations of pre-industrial France is based. It is unusual in that it does not stop in 1789 but in 1870, and this enables M. Lachiver to show just how far the traditional patterns were disrupted by the Revolution. The chief effect seems to have been to neutralize trends already present during the previous period, towards greater population mobility, birth control, and lower infantile mortality. From the middle of the eighteenth century there had been a marked increase in the numbers of both illegitimate births and pregnant brides, and from 1789 to 1839 the latter represented 24 per cent of all brides. Some extremely thorough work in the records of neighbouring areas has also enabled M. Lachiver to trace the practice of putting babies out to wet-nurses: Parisian babies came to Meulan, and the bourgeoisie of the town sent their infants out to the villages.

Although Meulan was a tiny town, with less than 2,000 inhabitants, it possessed this hierarchy of judicial officials, until they were swept away with the Revolution. Châteauneuf, with a population of over 5,000, was also dominated by the class of royal officials, reinforced in this case by those dependent on the County. While M. Lachiver has based his work on the parish registers and the *état civil*, Marcel Couturier has relied heavily on the records of the notaries for his material. One very odd feature of his book is a lengthy introduction explaining his use of computer techniques in reconstructing social structures. This has no discernible relation to the main text, and would really have been more suitable for separate publication.

Within these self-imposed limits all these books are extremely well done, and have a good deal to offer

the student of Ancient Régime society and demography. Marcel Lachiver's work on Meulan is the most restricted in that it concentrates almost exclusively on demography, but in this field it must join the limited number of classic studies on which our knowledge of the populations of pre-industrial France is based. It is unusual in that it does not stop in 1789 but in 1870, and this enables M. Lachiver to show just how far the traditional patterns were disrupted by the Revolution. The chief effect seems to have been to neutralize trends already present during the previous period, towards greater population mobility, birth control, and lower infantile mortality. From the middle of the eighteenth century there had been a marked increase in the numbers of both illegitimate births and pregnant brides, and from 1789 to 1839 the latter represented 24 per cent of all brides. Some extremely thorough work in the records of neighbouring areas has also enabled M. Lachiver to trace the practice of putting babies out to wet-nurses: Parisian babies came to Meulan, and the bourgeoisie of the town sent their infants out to the villages.

Although Meulan was a tiny town, with less than 2,000 inhabitants, it possessed this hierarchy of judicial officials, until they were swept away with the Revolution. Châteauneuf, with a population of over 5,000, was also dominated by the class of royal officials, reinforced in this case by those dependent on the County. While M. Lachiver has based his work on the parish registers and the *état civil*, Marcel Couturier has relied heavily on the records of the notaries for his material. One very odd feature of his book is a lengthy introduction explaining his use of computer techniques in reconstructing social structures. This has no discernible relation to the main text, and would really have been more suitable for separate publication.

Within these self-imposed limits all these books are extremely well done, and have a good deal to offer

the student of Ancient Régime society and demography. Marcel Lachiver's work on Meulan is the most restricted in that it concentrates almost exclusively on demography, but in this field it must join the limited number of classic studies on which our knowledge of the populations of pre-industrial France is based. It is unusual in that it does not stop in 1789 but in 1870, and this enables M. Lachiver to show just how far the traditional patterns were disrupted by the Revolution. The chief effect seems to have been to neutralize trends already present during the previous period, towards greater population mobility, birth control, and lower infantile mortality. From the middle of the eighteenth century there had been a marked increase in the numbers of both illegitimate births and pregnant brides, and from 1789 to 1839 the latter represented 24 per cent of all brides. Some extremely thorough work in the records of neighbouring areas has also enabled M. Lachiver to trace the practice of putting babies out to wet-nurses: Parisian babies came to Meulan, and the bourgeoisie of the town sent their infants out to the villages.

Although Meulan was a tiny town, with less than 2,000 inhabitants, it possessed this hierarchy of judicial officials, until they were swept away with the Revolution. Châteauneuf, with a population of over 5,000, was also dominated by the class of royal officials, reinforced in this case by those dependent on the County. While M. Lachiver has based his work on the parish registers and the *état civil*, Marcel Couturier has relied heavily on the records of the notaries for his material. One very odd feature of his book is a lengthy introduction explaining his use of computer techniques in reconstructing social structures. This has no discernible relation to the main text, and would really have been more suitable for separate publication.

Within these self-imposed limits all these books are extremely well done, and have a good deal to offer

the student of Ancient Régime society and demography. Marcel Lachiver's work on Meulan is the most restricted in that it concentrates almost exclusively on demography, but in this field it must join the limited number of classic studies on which our knowledge of the populations of pre-industrial France is based. It is unusual in that it does not stop in 1789 but in 1870, and this enables M. Lachiver to show just how far the traditional patterns were disrupted by the Revolution. The chief effect seems to have been to neutralize trends already present during the previous period, towards greater population mobility, birth control, and lower infantile mortality. From the middle of the eighteenth century there had been a marked increase in the numbers of both illegitimate births and pregnant brides, and from 1789 to 1839 the latter represented 24 per cent of all brides. Some extremely thorough work in the records of neighbouring areas has also enabled M. Lachiver to trace the practice of putting babies out to wet-nurses: Parisian babies came to Meulan, and the bourgeoisie of the town sent their infants out to the villages.

Although Meulan was a tiny town, with less than 2,000 inhabitants, it possessed this hierarchy of judicial officials, until they were swept away with the Revolution. Châteauneuf, with a population of over 5,000, was also dominated by the class of royal officials, reinforced in this case by those dependent on the County. While M. Lachiver has based his work on the parish registers and the *état civil*, Marcel Couturier has relied heavily on the records of the notaries for his material. One very odd feature of his book is a lengthy introduction explaining his use of computer techniques in reconstructing social structures. This has no discernible relation to the main text, and would really have been more suitable for separate publication.

Within these self-imposed limits all these books are extremely well done, and have a good deal to offer

the student of Ancient Régime society and demography. Marcel Lachiver's work on Meulan is the most restricted in that it concentrates almost exclusively on demography, but in this field it must join the limited number of classic studies on which our knowledge of the populations of pre-industrial France is based. It is unusual in that it does not stop in 1789 but in 1870, and this enables M. Lachiver to show just how far the traditional patterns were disrupted by the Revolution. The chief effect seems to have been to neutralize trends already present during the previous period, towards greater population mobility, birth control, and lower infantile mortality. From the middle of the eighteenth century there had been a marked increase in the numbers of both illegitimate births and pregnant brides, and from 1789 to 1839 the latter represented 24 per cent of all brides. Some extremely thorough work in the records of neighbouring areas has also enabled M. Lachiver to trace the practice of putting babies out to wet-nurses: Parisian babies came to Meulan, and the bourgeoisie of the town sent their infants out to the villages.

Although Meulan was a tiny town, with less than 2,000 inhabitants, it possessed this hierarchy of judicial officials, until they were swept away with the Revolution. Châteauneuf, with a population of over 5,000, was also dominated by the class of royal officials, reinforced in this case by those dependent on the County. While M. Lachiver has based his work on the parish registers and the *état civil*, Marcel Couturier has relied heavily on the records of the notaries for his material. One very odd feature of his book is a lengthy introduction explaining his use of computer techniques in reconstructing social structures. This has no discernible relation to the main text, and would really have been more suitable for separate publication.

Within these self-imposed limits all these books are extremely well done, and have a good deal to offer

the student of Ancient Régime society and demography. Marcel Lachiver's work on Meulan is the most restricted in that it concentrates almost exclusively on demography, but in this field it must join the limited number of classic studies on which our knowledge of the populations of pre-industrial France is based. It is unusual in that it does not stop in 1789 but in 1870, and this enables M. Lachiver to show just how far the traditional patterns were disrupted by the Revolution. The chief effect seems to have been to neutralize trends already present during the previous period, towards greater population mobility, birth control, and lower infantile mortality. From the middle of the eighteenth century there had been a marked increase in the numbers of both illegitimate births and pregnant brides, and from 1789 to 1839 the latter represented 24 per cent of all brides. Some extremely thorough work in the records of neighbouring areas has also enabled M. Lachiver to trace the practice of putting babies out to wet-nurses: Parisian babies came to Meulan, and the bourgeoisie of the town sent their infants out to the villages.

Although Meulan was a tiny town, with less than 2,000 inhabitants, it possessed this hierarchy of judicial officials, until they were swept away with the Revolution. Châteauneuf, with a population of over 5,000, was also dominated by the class of royal officials, reinforced in this case by those dependent on the County. While M. Lachiver has based his work on the parish registers and the *état civil*, Marcel Couturier has relied heavily on the records of the notaries for his material. One very odd feature of his book is a lengthy introduction explaining his use of computer techniques in reconstructing social structures. This has no discernible relation to the main text, and would really have been more suitable for separate publication.

Within these self-imposed limits all these books are extremely well done, and have a good deal to offer

the student of Ancient Régime society and demography. Marcel Lachiver's work on Meulan is the most restricted in that it concentrates almost exclusively on demography, but in this field it must join the limited number of classic studies on which our knowledge of the populations of pre-industrial France is based. It is unusual in that it does not stop in 1789 but in 1870,







**Sheridan**  
MADELINE BINGHAM  
The first biography for many years of the author of *A School for Scandal*, who was also, in his time, orator, politician, actor, duellist, lover, and friend of the great. Illustrated £5.95

## Pillar of Fire

NAOE KINOSHITA  
This novel, (written in 1904) is unique in Japan. It tells of the fierce struggle against injustice and war of a gentle but unsentimental Christian Socialist, Choji Shinoda. *Unesco Asian Fiction* £2.95

## A Western Approach to Zen

CHRISTMAS HUMPHREYS  
The celebrated Buddhist scholar explains how Western students, unable to travel to Japan, can still learn the wisdom of Zen in preparation for the awakening of the Wisdom-Compassion within. £3.25; paperback £1.75

## Shaw the Dramatist

LOUIS CROMPTON  
This new approach introduces the major plays through their background, social, philosophical and historical, using hitherto unnoticed manuscripts. £3.50

## Great Cities of the World

Edited by WILLIAM A. ROBSON & D. E. REGAN  
A revised and greatly expanded edition of this pioneer work on metropolitan local government. £18.00 set of 2 volumes  
George Allen & Unwin



71st Year 3 March 1972 No. 3,653

## The State of English

Sir, My name occurs repeatedly in your discussion (February 25) of "The State of English" at Cambridge, and in such a manner as calls for some corrective comment from me; otherwise, the fallacious implication, unchallenged, would be helped on its way to becoming history, accepted and established. Not all of the references to myself are meant to be adverse: for instance, I can hardly complain of this: "Leavis stood for a clear idea of what 'Cambridge English' was"; one said to me nostalgically, "he really was the only one who had a profound understanding of that tradition".

A "tradition" of course, is not necessarily a "consensus". I bring in this last word because it is used by Raymond Williams who, from your article, would appear to be a major, effectively Marxist, centre of influence in the present-day Faculty. He is quoted as saying: "The consensus on which the English Faculty did its best work ended about the time of Leavis's retirement and a new consensus has yet to be worked out." Actually, to little did I, in my sense of what Cambridge English should be, represent a consensus, that Mr Williams's implication exemplifies what is, for me, the most familiar of life's ironies: I was, in my academic career (if that is the word, made to feel irresistibly an outlaw, and I remained to the end conscious of being looked up by those in power as a deplorable influence in the way regarded and endorsed by the King Edward VII ex-Professor in his memoirs (where he refers to the nuisance of the "Leavisites"). Yet the article, when—as it does a number of times—it mentions my retirement, implies to it in Mr Williams's spirit a decisive historical significance.

Since the *document* I have just offered was long ago neutralized as "persecution-mania", let me briefly rehearse the relevant facts. At my superannuation I was indeed a University Reader: I had been advanced to that status in my sixty-fifth year. As for my previous official standing, I was appointed an Assistant Lecturer in my early forties and a Full University Lecturer in my fifties. The financial consequences for my retired years, as well as for my previous life, of such an academic career constitute, in the nature of things, a fact that I and my wife (who also—though with even less recognition—devoted a life's service to Cambridge English) can hardly regard as negligible.

These data, Sir, are surely very relevant to your inquiry. I can enforce this point by stating that, though in my sixtieth year, I have never at any time had any say in Faculty appointments—and my wife has suffered complete exclusion.

The relevance of the matter of the above "truth" that, to committee members to discuss "Tripos reform", I have put in this way: "What is the use of an increasing Tripos reform when we know that serious discussion of the most important head, the quality of the teaching and examining personnel, is prohibited?" That kind of question itself, of course, constituted a Leavisite noise. I will only permit myself to say, further with regard to this order of consideration, that anyone who supposes that the Faculty of the kind of person getting into the Faculty who would fight intelligently and effectively, even zealously, for—to use Mr Williams's word—a redeeming kind of "consensus", exhibits an extreme lack of realism.

As for the assumptions involved in the identifying of me with "Practical Criticism", my "document" is that the

ing where I heard no word of "letting in the Rudolf Duschkes" is misleading in as much as it highlights disagreements that seem to be resolved outside Cambridge, and obscures the constructive work that is in fact going on that indeed was in some ways helped forward by the expression of unresolvable disagreements. The result of that work, in various committees where discussion is "conducted in reasonably cordial terms", will, I hope, be made public in due course.

I. C. KNIGHTS  
Queens' College, Cambridge.

Sir, All unwittingly it seems your Correspondent touting the British universities has stumbled on the fact that there is indeed a crisis in English Studies—but one which concerns not personalities, the image of particular universities or the generation-gap, but substantive intellectual issues.

At the centre of it is the fate of the critical practice, developed first at Cambridge on every makeshift methodological foundation, which now threatens to collapse not so much from structuralist blows as from its own internal contradictions. As one who was at Cambridge in the late 1950s and early 1960s, I would question whether Practical Criticism was ever as well practised or as intellectually stimulating as I. C. Knights implies. On the one hand it was simply an ingenious guessing-game; on the other, the presence of excluding reference to the personality of the author in a scrupulous act of attention to the integrity of the verbal surface in fact led to a corrosive mutilation directed at the sensibility of the writer. Thus, faced with a passage from Pound on an expository paper the candidate would probably draw attention to the coarseness of his sensibility and the vulgarity of his expression—the fact that Pound felt he had something important to say and wanted the reader to pay attention to it would not enter into the discussion. Moreover, Practical Criticism drew on belated traditions: it would be ready to say whether Haydn or Hemingway was the better stylist; instead of asking what role a particular style was playing in a specific context.

The most serious defect of Practical Criticism has been its readiness to take the part for the whole, to judge the size of Hercules by looking at his foot. A Derrida or Derrida will be summarily dismissed by deconstructive that a few lines scratched at random from a voluminous text do not conform to conventional notions of fine writing. And at the back of this is the magical notion that this literary language, the preserve of an elite, is a universal medium and prophylactic against the evils of mass culture. But this "method", if it can be called that, does not even serve interpretative ends: since it culminates in battles of quotation-wrapping, in which each critic argues that his quotations, his keys to the text, are the only ones that fit the floor. So one argues for the centrality of a particular statement by the author, another for a pattern of imagery, and so on. Even the Arnoldian "touchstone" approach is by no means discredited. Moreover, these disagreements imply a hierarchicalism of values, in which one level is significantly medieval term will always be seen as being more important or as having priority over another. Within the problematic of Practical Criticism these debates cannot be—and do not ask

DAVID SHAW  
School of English and Art Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton.

Sir, I am surprised that the article in which the paper "The State of English" is published, in the *Times*, February 25, no mention is made of L. A. Richards. Since first suggested the minute examination of the poem itself, "words on a page" was my privilege to attend to, and to be supervised by his times and to be supervised by his times and to be supervised by his times.

Perhaps it is not I, some less important, will honour him on his behalf. Ivy House, High Street, Oxfordshire.

to be resolved. The crisis differ.

Symptoms of this crisis are the work of Wayne Booth, disciples, whose defense of the ancient author convention is an extreme view that a work could not be understood as a whole without the aid of its author incorporated within it of its unqualified explanation, it meant.

Structuralism also has been I cannot go into here, but it has shifted the debate on to a pre-structuralist position. Critics now recognize that a scientificity is possible in the study of works of art and that subjective posturing can be a disservice. Value-judgments are not abolished but criticism is no longer a game with the question: "What level should I stress?" The subject of critical attention is the interaction of modes of signification in a work of art, with the elements rather than with a precedent. A further element—and one which undercuts structuralist assumptions—is that the intentionality of a work is registered in the displaced established pattern of signification, whether socially given, in the as the Western or the non-Western, or created by the work itself and in its relation to that society or as a script of reality. It is precisely the distortions, the mythicizing, that are significant.

These are the things that a work means—not what it has to say about it. May I conclude by saying that work of rebuilding the intellectual of English and American Studies is a matter of some urgency: to say your Correspondent does that, they should simply try to solve out any kind of rationalist disaster.

DAVID SHAW  
School of English and Art Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton.

Sir, I am surprised that the article in which the paper "The State of English" is published, in the *Times*, February 25, no mention is made of L. A. Richards. Since first suggested the minute examination of the poem itself, "words on a page" was my privilege to attend to, and to be supervised by his times and to be supervised by his times.

Perhaps it is not I, some less important, will honour him on his behalf. Ivy House, High Street, Oxfordshire.



## The literature of civil war

More than a year before the outbreak of the Nigerian Civil War, the late Christopher Okigbo wrote these lines:

The smell of blood already floats in the humid mist of the afternoon. The death sentence lies in ambush along the corridors of power. A great fearful thing already tugs at the cables of the open air. A shroud immense and immovable, a night of deep waters, a dream dream unattainable and unprintable, a path of stone.

In this twilight period between the first coup of January 1966 and the outbreak of war in July 1967, several of Nigeria's leading writers matched the ominous hour with work of remarkable vision, compassion and courage. Alongside Okigbo's *Path of Thunder: Poems Prophetic War* might be set the "October 14," a sequence of Wole Soyinka, where a poet's intelligence at breaking-point struggles to find a language in which to come to terms with the facts of the senseless and repeated ethnic massacres which erupted in the North in May, July and October of 1966. Only the language of harvest and fulfilment can carry, paradoxically, the sense of so much life and hope broken and aborted. After seeing the scattered bodies at Ikeja Airport like so many smashed guards leaking their blood into the earth, Mr Soyinka poses with an image of controlled and terrible irony:

Let us be wasted, gather up to the recurrent vision of the dead, lying in the sun's recesses.

At the very beginning of this period, Chinua Achebe had written a devastating pamphlet in the First Republic in his bitterly satirical *A Man of the People*, published a few days after the first coup and accurately foreseeing a period of military rule, riding upon the people's very disillusionment with the pillars (no one seems to have foreseen that one can grow equally weary of the colonels, and with less one can see that the established order of Nigeria can certainly be changed by any change of government: of having been inadequate in their attacks on present evils, they are now in their prophetic, as it were, to come.

As has taken longer, naturally, to see a picture of how these writers have responded to the war. The people cried for strikes to stem the tide.

CHINUA ACHEBE:  
*Girls at War and other stories*  
184pp. Heinemann Educational. Paperback, 30p.

CHINUA ACHEBE, ARTHUR NWANKWO, SAMUEL OJEIKA, and FLORA NWAPA and others:  
*The Insider*  
Stories of War and Peace from Nigeria  
124pp. Lagos: Nwankwo-Ojeika.

S. OKECHUKWU MEZU:  
*Behind the Rising Sun*  
244pp. Heinemann. £2.10.

ALI A. MAZRUU:  
*The Trial of Christopher Okigbo*  
145pp. Heinemann Educational. Paperback, 35p.

have responded to the unfolding misery of the war itself. The first to produce any coherent commentary on it was I. P. Clark in his collection *Casualties*, finished in 1968. Mr Clark wrote as one who, along with Okigbo, had been an important actor in one stage of the first coup and an ardent supporter of the Five Majors who tried to wrench Nigeria on to the path of unity and reform. He wrote also as one who had become a firm supporter of the Nigerian side in the war, believing that the Igbo leaders had made a fundamental miscalculation in breaking away and that, once started, the war must be won by Nigeria if the wrecked hopes of 1966 were ever to be salvaged. *Casualties* presents only one possible view of these events, but it is a coherent one and it is eloquently realized through Mr Clark's powerful use of natural imagery—honors, animals, plants and human creatures are made to carry the burden of revolution, oppression and war. In these lines, he comments upon General Ironsi's inaction in the six months that followed the first coup: the heavy taxes are the coffins of the dead soldiers whose killers were neither released nor brought to trial in that crucial period:

The people cried for strikes to stem the tide. With his left hand he released to them pigeons and promises. As a swirl of pigeons, a sea of promises could drown the burden leaving now in boxes like pythons. Whole Nigeria, who spent most of

the war in a Federal prison and was a known opponent of it, produced in 1970 his bitter allegory *Madmen and Sparrows*, a play in which the physical damage war wreaks upon the mind is matched by its deeper wounds upon the minds of those who manipulate them. The play is shaped by a fierce anger, but it is also a masterpiece of subtlety, offering the reader no points of identification or release except perhaps the two old women, who might be taken to represent the rejected, ambiguous wisdom of Africa which surrounds the clinic, the laboratory and the asylum.

To see anything comparable from the Biafran side it has been necessary to await the peace, and it is appropriate that Chinua Achebe's *Girls at War* should now appear as the 100th title of the Heinemann "African Writers Series", which he has served as general editor for a decade. These stories are best considered alongside several other works, published in London or Enugu over the past year, which together show something of the reality of war as lived within the dwindling enclave of Biafra. In showing that reality, the writers have not been afraid to tell a complex and often painful truth. The picture is very different from that hawked by Biafra's more naive European champions, or by her own highly professional propaganda machine; and for that very reason it is ultimately more moving as well as more interesting. Heroism, dedication, scientific and military ingenuity are all here in plenty. For many people the war was in some sort a rebirth, even though it was death to countless others. But to suppose that the old Nigeria of privilege, opportunism, nepotism and fiddle was abolished by drawing a line on the map and making a new flag is to show a gullibility which professes concern in living human beings.

The reality may be glimpsed not only in Mr Achebe's short stories but in a collection by several hands published in Enugu under the title *The Insider*, and in Okechukwu Mezu's *Behind the Rising Sun*, the most substantial work of fiction yet produced by the war. Dr Mezu lacks the skill of selection and develops more than half his book in a highly detailed account of the machinations of Biafra's well-heeled representatives in the capitals of Europe. Far less space would have made the point that these gentlemen often led lives of total unreality, jet-setting from one luxury

hotel to another, "suffering very much" to use a favourite Igbo expression, in their struggle for the homeland, but keeping well away from the scene of ever-mounting desolation and horror, which financed their activities. Needless to say, Biafra's largely unrecognized status also exposed them to every device of chemistry and blackmail in the armory of Europe's most practiced operators.

Dr Mezu's hero, Freddy Amala, finally detaches himself from this caravan and returns to a shrinking Biafra, now in the last and most desperate months of war. Everything, except the suffering, now looks to him less absolute than it did from outside. There is, for example, extensive trading behind Nigerian lines, though the Biafran authorities attempt to regulate this trade and use it for military espionage and the buying of essential supplies. Black market fortunes are made by individuals on both sides, nevertheless. On the military fronts, Enigma and elsewhere are harked by incompetent failures and collapses in Biafran defence. Enigma is abandoned without a struggle, while Port Harcourt and Owerri are later evacuated amid scenes of panic and confusion, because the authorities insist until the last moment that they will be successfully defended. Veteran officers and seasoned units struggle and improvise to the last, while other troops outstrip the civilians in their flight and have to be turned back to face the enemy by the guns of nurtured village militiamen. Amid an undifferentiated mass of common suffering, a few dedicated officers range ceaselessly across the enclave: while others stay often in their bunkers, with plentiful supplies of beer, Manobo wine, "relief" food and end-time girls.

This mixed, confused but frequently mixed story is not essentially different from that presented by the various authors of *The Insider* or by Mr Achebe in the few wartime stories of his collection. A fine story by Victor Nwankwo depicts the last days of an isolated unit, cut off from higher orders and all effective intelligence. Its senior officers disappear on mysterious visits to the rear from which they are never to return. The severed *Interim* (which is determined to lead his men in a last attack on the Nigerians, but suddenly they emerge from the forest into a road flooded with soldiers and civilians who shout that the war has been over for a whole week. The lieutenant quietly puts a gun to his head, but his men hastily shed their weapons and uniforms and disperse, "everybody to his mother's kitchen". "The End of the Road" creates well the eerie, timeless quality of such fighting in the forest, in areas where the prewar roads have become grassy pathways and many villages have been abandoned to the bush, which can swallow a house in a single season.

In these times, when the perils of death in battle or starvation were accompanied by fears of bombing, armed robbery or forced recruitment by the constant military patrols, many set their hopes no higher than survival. The most technically accomplished of the stories in *The Insider*, "The Lost Path" by Chukwura Ayononyo, offers a fourteen-year-old hero who has been repeatedly enlisted by Biafran military police into ever more severe conditions of service and is making one last desperate bid to get back to his home. Much of the action revolves around a madman at a road-block, in which the inconsequence of the exchanges comes to seem no madder than the total situation in which the boy is trapped. On the last page he is captured once again when the sounds of the 1960s Masquerade lure him into the arms of yet another patrol. Another story, André Aletta's "A Village in Agony", shows the resignation to which a humane officer is reduced at the rough tactics pursued by such patrols, who become yet another form of "licensed terror" in the bosom of a disintegrating society.

The title-story of Chinua Achebe's collection traces the evolution of one of the good-time girls already encountered in Dr Mezu's novel. Starting as a dishevelled young militant, she is gradually squeezed by the pressures of war, until, upturned and

## Ulysses on the Liffey

By Richard Ellmann

"Mr Ellmann is a very special case, his noble biography of Joyce gives him rights to our attention which we might be inclined to question in almost anybody else. . . . It is a joy to read not only in his admiration for the writer, but also in his attitude towards him of love informed by intelligence. *Ulysses* remains both difficult and entertaining. Mr Ellmann has made it a little less difficult and even more entertaining than it was before." —Philip Toynbee, *The Observer*. £3.50

## The Case of Walter Bagehot

By C. H. Sisson

"Bagehot had this coming to him. He has been the revered subject of a minor political-literary cult for too long. . . . Bagehot is now deluged, without heat, ever so gently and professionally, in *The Case of Walter Bagehot*, a short but heroically written critical study that looks not only at the man and his work but what lies behind both." —Robert Nye, *The Scotsman*. £2.50

## Fugue for a Darkening Island

By Christopher Priest

"A chilling and convincing new novel with a remarkably logical title. . . . Mr Priest's novel is short and stark but his character study is solid and completely credible. . . . A preventive and disturbing allegory that has echoes far and wide." —Graham Lord, *The Sunday Express*. £1.75

"Some excellent descriptive touches almost up to *The Inheritance* produced." —John Whitley, *The Sunday Express*. £1.75

## The Teaching of Artur Schnabel

By Konrad Wolff

Konrad Wolff studied with Schnabel in the 1930's and benefited from a continuous and close co-operation with him. This book, which was written in association with Schnabel himself, represents the final form of a close collaboration which lasted until shortly before Schnabel's death in 1951 and contains the first full exposition of his teaching. Its appeal extends beyond the media of piano students, for whom it will be invaluable, for it throws fresh and penetrating light on the whole subject of music in performance. With a frontispiece and 211 music examples. £3

## Peking Cooking

By Kenneth H.C. Lo

"Mr Lo belongs to the non-nomadic school of Chinese cooking. His recipes are readable, cookable and, ultimately, edible. When the fumes of samurai have blown away it is quite possible that ordinary mortals will be able to take a holiday in China. Short of a visit to the 'Restaurant of the Complete Amalgam of Virtues' they can at least cool the meat themselves with the help of Ken Lo's book." —Alexander Shirov, *The Sunday Times*. With a foreword by Professor William Simpson. £2.10

FABER & FABER



sexual market-politics into accepting a series of liaisons with any officer or official who can offer her a few extra comforts. But it becomes clear that the nightly flights into Biafra can feed not only food and arms but, too often, tales of chic clothing, wigs, brassieres, perfumes and cosmetics for the wives and mistresses of the powerful. Indeed, in the very midst of war, such women were known to fly off for vacations in Abidjan or Libreville.

In a rather forced conclusion, Mr Achebe's story ends with the death of the girl, Gladys, in a redemptive gesture of self-sacrifice during an air-raid. The note of survival and endurance is struck strongly in "Civil Peace", dealing with the immediate aftermath of the war. Igwebu and his family have built up a small business from the very materials of their ruin, only to have it all taken from them in a night raid by armed ex-soldiers. In particular, the twenty pounds given him that very morning in return for handing in Biafran money, a payment known as "egg-money" (a *egwu*), has been taken from him. But Igwebu refuses to lie down and die:

"I count it as nothing", he told his sympathisers, his eyes on the rope he was tying. "What is egg-money? Did I depend on it last week? Or is it greater than the other things that went with the war? I say, let egg-money perish in the flames! Let it go where everything else has gone. Nothing puzzles God!"

For the most part, *Girls at War* consists of stories written over the past twenty years. Of the recent stories in it, two of the best are not directly concerned with the war at all. "Vengence! Creditor!" is a powerful indictment of the ineffectual nobility which has grown like a cancer on the heart of Nigerian affluence, and which not only preys on the poor but is able to purge the midst of plenty make a nursemaid murderess out of a little housewife who thinks that her infant charge stands in the way of her own schooling. "The Madman" shows the devastating revenge of insanity upon the pomposities of the sane. The madman's world is complete and internally consistent, and he has his own priorities right; he is not to be robbed of food and shelter by considerations of another's status.

Surveying the literature of the war, the salient impression is that no one could have sought it or persisted in it if they could have foreseen its course. *Beyond the Rising Sun* chronicles the Biafran euphoria of



Christopher Okigbo

July, 1967, which fully matched that of the Federals. Enugu talked of victory in four days, Lagos in a few weeks. On a slightly more rational level, Biafra hoped for international intervention like the Six-Day War had just ended with a cease-fire in Israel which would force Nigeria to accept secession. These hopes were dashed, but international opinion did play a major part in the war, almost certainly prolonging it. The direct reason for this was the scale on which flights were organized into Biafra, thereby countering the land and sea blockade which Nigeria had successfully clamped around the area. The indirect reason for the success of this operation was the restraint imposed upon Nigeria by international opinion. It soon became clear that the shooting down of relief planes in mistake for army planes would cause a rumour which would have adverse effects on Nigeria's own diplomatic offensive.

Now the plain fact is that blockade has always been recognized as a "legitimate" weapon of war, horrible and indiscriminate though its effects may be. Britain imposed it on Germany to the best of its ability in both world wars, and persisted in it for months after the Armistice of 1918. Germany likewise tried to starve Britain by her U-boat campaigns. Neither side would for a moment have tolerated any inter-

national airlift which sought to neutralize these effects; indeed, it would have been regarded as an act of war. Where Africa is concerned, however, paternalism frequently dictates a far more admonitory attitude than the great powers would ever presume to apply to one another. And paternalism allied with humanitarianism did permit some very muddled or dishonest thinking to prevail on the issue of these flights, which may have been justified in the eyes of God but quite indisputably prolonged the fighting. To begin with, much of the relief food inevitably found its way into the mouths of fighting soldiers, who simply seized convoys. One such episode, after the fall of Owerri, is described in *Behind the Rising Sun*. Also, as John de St. Jorre has recently revealed in *The Nigerian Civil War*, the mercenary pilots employed by both sides soon struck up a tacit understanding that this highly profitable operation must not be brought to an end by too much zeal in shooting down freight-planes, even when these were quite plainly known to be carrying arms. Hence the remarkable fact that UN Airports remained open until the very end of the war, when Biafra had shrunk to handkerchief size.

More vexing still were the moral problems posed by Biafra's enforced choice of friends. Apart from France and her two closest satellites in Africa, these included Portugal, South Africa and Rhodesia. "Beggars can't be choosers", the Biafrans might argue. But in the larger context of Pan-African affairs, the contest and its prolongation undoubtedly brought much joy to the enemies of African unity and African freedom. These are the grounds on which the poet Christopher Okigbo is posthumously indicted in another recent novel in the "African Writers Series". All Muzuri's *The Trial of Christopher Okigbo*.

Novels of this fantastic and speculative type are singularly difficult to write, as they tend in a thinness of fictional texture and an excess of wordy confrontation. Professor



Chinua Achebe

Mazrui does not exempt these dangers, though his book is a courageous attempt to isolate some of the most fundamental issues raised by Biafra's secession and the subsequent civil war. The case against Okigbo is that he has forsaken the duty of a poet and intellectual towards the larger vision of Africa, in the service of a cause which is local and perhaps largely tribal in nature. His professed individualism, and the universalism expressed in his refusal to accept such labels as "Negro art", is seen as betrayed by his partisan zeal in the cause of Biafra. But Okigbo is also celestially defended by a Swahili critic from Kenya (Professor Muzuri himself?), on the grounds that both individualism and universalism must give place to the claims of African collectivity. If "African" Professor Mazrui supposedly wishes to assert "Biafran" and thereby begs the essential question. This argument, however, is sufficient to extract a verdict of "not proven" from the immortals assembled in the local football stadium.

This elaborate charade does not really succeed as fiction. The notion of celestial soccer is rather ridiculous, though there is something engaging in a Muslim writer's vision of a heavenly message-parlour stuffed by willing hours, in which the rival barristers, lax before their contest. The book does, however, serve to

broaden the debate about the international and inter-racial dimensions of the war and is thus complementary to the more intimate work of the "insiders".

Some dimensions are still missing from the literature which has been in impressive quantity since the Biafran collapse two years ago. The important creative work from the Nigerian battlefront has been so far, yet it would be surprising that large and various army did, soldiers themselves, the suffering losses on the Nigerian side were not less than among their opponents, though they were not so pounded with the bitter draught of defeat. Likewise, justice has not been done yet to those many soldiers who have perfectly justifiable doubts about the war itself. Now that the war has had their say, it would be a pity to hear from those who were in the war in Colonel Okigbo's poem. There were many points, from the dawn of Enugu and the Mid-West region down to the end, when reasonable men must have wondered about the wisdom of persisting in a bid which had failed, and whose cost for others was mounting from hour to hour. What in Nigeria there were other, Wole Soyinka, who doubted while every expedient of reconciliation had been tried before General Gowon threw his war machine into the arena. The Easterners were at that moment a deeply wounded and affronted people. Was war the only possible method of reintegration?

Such fundamental doubts do trouble the surface of Okigbo's *Insider and Girls at War*. But all these writers have striven to tell the truth as far as they knew in a struggle in which they were caught and inextricably involved. In this way they have created for those who did the only memorial worth having. When the last pamphlets of this side have flattered and gone, and the official rhetoric is no longer remembered, this witness will prevail.

## To the Editor

### 'The Abuses of Literacy'

Sir, I am sure that all members of the Study Group on Pornography have read all your articles with close attention. I can at least promise them most careful scrutiny. I can easily forgive Alan Ryan if he has found it difficult to discover what he calls "my case".

When I opened the debate in the House of Lords on April 21 I said that I was doubtful on the proposition that I had suggested had increased, was increasing and ought to be diminished. I was surprised to see how this should be done. I cannot surely be expected to advance beyond that position before our report is published, presumably in September. The Committee as a whole are committed to try to find out how the study of pornography can be made in a manner acceptable to public opinion. And I am only one of about fifty members. Mr Ryan, however, seems to credit me with a particular view, in any way mischievously because he calls it "important" but not quite "comprehensive". The clients for hard-core pornography are in my view, so he supposes, "people with tastes they wished they did not have". I would certainly agree that sometimes impurity with homosexuals, for example, but I know of cases and could imagine many cases where it would not be so.

Surely Mr Ryan would agree that the case would be true in the world of things. I must resist the temptation in this range to follow up all sorts of interesting points in his and the other articles, including your final Commentary. It seemed wrong, however, to allow an honest misconception to become established. Mr Ryan will not mind my pointing out that the article of mine which he refers to appeared in *The Sunday Times* not the *Observer*, or respectfully suggesting that my long speech in the House of Lords on April 21 would not have been understood any sitting night although I have said that I have found a great deal since then.

LONGFORD.  
Simpkin and Jackson Ltd, 1 Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1.

Sir, In his article "The politics of censorship and rage" (February 4) Alan Ryan does not carry as much conviction as he could have done. He does not deal enough with the question of motivation. If the case of pornography rests on its content, what are the reasons for its existence? In a position in which he can be content? When he says of pornography that it "shows itself with the incapacity of a single individual and a culture to tolerate experiences he has in the two of his own life", it is important to ask why and which can be demonstrated in many other places. I refer to the fact that frequently the writer is himself exclusively identified with the "woman's" experience. On many occasions his descriptions, though they may be all the ludicrous gymnastics and obscenity that Mr Ryan describes, are quite specifically designed to encourage the reader to identify himself with the female experience, so that he can attempt to lose himself in her and by so doing get a sense of gratification. This is surely by contrast, in the extract from Sade which Mr Ryan says could have been very much stronger, there is a total disregard of the woman as a person or as a sexual subject. She is used as a means to the end of gratification on her part and often to receive the total humiliation in her own mind. It is not surprising that she is here witnessing a total devaluation of her own person. It is not surprising that when this cannot be defended by over-identification with her, she will be one reason for the total degradation of woman in pornography.

Though I agree that pornography is often deadly dull and little worth, perhaps it aims to provide gratification in a way which is not possible in the real world and without art, and it is a more objective criterion of its quality than its capacity to handle in a way which I have mentioned.

Finally, it is not enough to speak of "the question of censorship". It is the question of how to deal with the fact that the enormous and increasing frustration and misery becomes more apparent and more inescapable in times of cultural decline and stress.

R. D. D. MARKILLIE.  
Department of Psychiatry, University of Leeds, 15 Hyde Terrace, Leeds LS2 9LN.  
This is a letter of January 5, 1972, to which I received no reply. A further letter of February 11, drawing this to Mr Ryan's attention, has likewise received no reply.

Sir, Will you allow me to correct a slight error in the article by Peter Fryer on "The death of censorship" (February 18). It is not correct to say that Cecil Sharp "rewrote" the folk songs that he collected. Charles Marson, his collaborator in the first volumes of *Folk Songs from Somerset*, did so on occasion, but in later editions Cecil Sharp reverted to the original texts wherever possible, or took passages from another version of the song. Genuine English folk songs are distinct from the street ballad contents, some of which were formerly considered unfit for polite society and also some exotic symbolism, often very beautiful, but nothing that could be called obscene.

MAUD KARPIEN.  
43 Cadogan Place, London SW1.

Sir, With regard to "libertine literature" (Peter Fryer's article, February 18), one of the earliest examples, which is neither a translation nor written in a foreign language, must be Thomas Nashe's *A Choice of Valentines* which appeared in the late sixteenth century. It appears, if nowhere else, in R. B. Kew's fine complete works of Nashe. The poem, incidentally, is in the strict sense pornographic.

KENNETH YOUNG.  
Keele Park, 9 Irving Street, London, WC2H 7AT.

### Rights and Permissions

Sir, Readers intrigued by press reports of the McGraw-Hill/Howard Hughes saga may be interested to have news of another current McGraw-Hill publishing transaction.

On July 19, 1969, I received an inquiry from Robert Fryer, English Editor, McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, about Canadian and British reprint rights for "Cuthwell and Olwen", one of the stories in the medieval Welsh *Mabinogion*, translated by Thomas Jones and myself. McGraw-Hill wished to include this material in its current edition of *Medieval English*, by D. W. Robertson, to be published in 1970. I wrote back to ask whether they wished an American reprint right, because all such rights belonged to the translators. To this I received no reply, nor was I sent any reply to a further letter of mine sent on November 17, 1969, communicated with Messrs E. P. Dutton of New York and discovered that they, though they had no authority to do so, had granted McGraw-Hill permission to use "Cuthwell and Olwen" in the American edition of Robertson's book. In a letter of November 21, Messrs Dutton advised their error and informed me that they had cancelled their agreement with McGraw-Hill. From McGraw-Hill I received no word of any kind.

In January, 1970, I got in touch with McGraw-Hill again, in hope to break their six months' silence. In a letter of January 31, Jill Halton, of the firm's College Division, wrote with apologies and an unqualified request for reprint rights which set us somewhat further back than where we had started. For good measure I received two copies of an agreement form from Mr Fry. I wrote back raising the question of a fee on February 7, and since, as usual, I received no reply, I wrote again on March 8, making it clear beyond all doubt that McGraw-Hill had no permission to use our copyright material anywhere or at any time. To this letter too I received no reply.

We now move forward almost two years, when I received a stenoclined communication dated December 1, 1971, from McGraw-Hill's permissions department, informing me that they had come to an agreement that "we" (McGraw-Hill) have failed to fulfil our permissions agreements in respect of Robertson's *Literature of Medieval England*, published in 1970. McGraw-Hill, she continued, are eager to honour our agreements regarding the material of "Cuthwell and Olwen". But McGraw-Hill, she continued further, have no correspondence relating to these agreements. Would I send them copies? This I did on December 8, at the same time pointing out that McGraw-Hill do not have, and never have had, such agreements with me, and that the fact that they had used "Cuthwell and Olwen" was in defiance of a frequently asserted declaration of copyright.

On December 27 McGraw-Hill agreed that "it does appear we have unwittingly violated your copyright", and that we are eager to name a fee. This I did in a letter of January 5, 1972, to which I received no reply.

I received no reply. A further letter of February 11, drawing this to Mr Ryan's attention, has likewise received no reply.

Department of English, University College, London.

### 'The Waste Land'

Sir, Discussion of Eliot's poem shows a still widespread assumption that *The Waste Land* is about the Waste Land myth and that the Fisher King is a figure vital to its interpretation. But the only important grounds for assuming this derive from Eliot's notes to Weston. In these notes, Eliot does not even mention the Fisher King, and the poem is a parody of the Fisher King, and the poem is a parody of the Fisher King, and the poem is a parody of the Fisher King.

I should like to postulate that Eliot remembered the Waste Land story in a form more modest than Jessie Weston's and that he went to her book only for some updating and filling-out of a scheme felt to be sketchy. Malraux and Tennyson together were likely to be familiar reading for the literate middle classes of the 1890s, American as well as British. Eliot perhaps read as well, and remembered with affection, one of Malraux's finest stories, *The Romance of the Fisher King*, Book 2, chapters 2-10, which Tennyson also treated. Even if Eliot did not remember it clearly, its marked psychological interest makes it worth considering as an analogue to Eliot's poem, and one which may explain his choice of title.

Malraux's story has nothing to do with mythology: it is a story whose central figure exemplifies both conscience and guilt. It is a story of a man who, in the end, manages to create misery and hurt wherever he goes. A character of this kind is not a myth, but a man, and his story is a story of a man who, in the end, manages to create misery and hurt wherever he goes.

BARBARA EVERETT.  
Somerville College, Oxford.

post these countries he was passing. The vengeance does fall on Balin. The very amount prevents Balin from meeting his own brother when they meet in combat, and they kill each other. Merlin buries Balin and where he is buried makes a bed in which a man could not be without going out of his mind.

Malraux's story is strikingly suggestive of the subject that seems to have haunted Eliot throughout his career. For Balin is a kind of forerunner of Gregor Wile in Ibsen's *Wild Duck*, a man closed in the circle of conscience and guilt, a man who can do no good. Eliot's half young man, *The Portrait of a Lady*, asking, "Are these ideas right or wrong?" as he smells hyacinths across the garden, the narrator of "La Figlia che Piange" and of "The Hollow Men", and above all *Hurry in The Family Reunion* are all in their different ways haunted by guilt and regret. If the coherently parodic style of *The Waste Land* makes it, as we assume, a single consciousness, earlier Eliot's poem, then his hero is less a passive and impotent Fisher King than a man like Balin as he rides through "the four countries and cities" and listens to the reproaches of those he has unwittingly harmed. In *The Waste Land* the characters show their awareness in a way that speaks of blame, stated or unstated. And much of the power of the poem derives from the sense that the narrator is more than a mere tourist of a world that disgusts him. He is identified with those who seem him. He is a man who is particularly self-conscious of the power of the poem itself, and his consciousness, for whom he is in some sense responsible. Surely, study can throw little light on this power; but it may help to explain why Eliot should have associated such a subject with the story of the Waste Land.

Somerville College, Oxford.

### Penmanship

Sir, May I add a note to your review (February 2) of Edward Johnston's *Penmanship*? His friendship with Robert Bridges is often overlooked and this was influential in Johnston's early days, for Bridges advised him to study half-inch, and this Johnston did, and for some years he taught that style. I recall one of his earliest pupils, the last Lord Poole, telling me that at that time it was thought that half-inch was the only style to follow.

Mrs Bridges gave Johnston a copy of *Penmanship* by Johnston. Johnston's *Handbook of Penmanship*, published in 1899, is a book which began to teach. The book is annotated and marked by Johnston.

In 1913 Johnston wrote memoranda of Bridges' paraphrases of Virgil in Johnston's style of penmanship, which were reproduced in Robert Bridges' *English Penmanship*.

ALFRED FAIRBANK.  
27 Granville Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1TG.

### Duplication

Sir, The price of books is high enough today without paying for unnecessary duplication. I refer to volume five of the *Budley Head Ford Madox Ford*, have the previous four volumes been out for the first time for almost 500 years. Your headline mistakenly awards the cutting to Durr rather than to Fritz Kredel, thus withering somewhat the laurel bestowed in your reviewer's remark that Durr "would have been delighted with such a skilled and sensitive *Farnschneider* as Mr Kredel proved to have been".

PAUL STANDARD.  
445 East 65th Street, New York, NY 10021, USA.

The Oxford University Press, New York, have asked us to announce that the poems edited in *Murson La France's A Reading of Stephen Crane* (reviewed in the TLS on December 10 last year) are copyrighted by Joseph Katz.

## Formed in the francophone mould

BERNARD D. DADIE:  
*Climbié*

Translated by Karen C. Chapman.  
157pp. Heinemann Educational.  
Paperback, 55p.

FRANCIS BEBEY:  
*Agatha Mondio's Son*

Translated by Joyce A. Hutchinson.  
154pp. Heinemann Educational.  
Paperback, 60p.

The appearance of these two novels in English translation provides an instructive contrast in the francophone literature of Africa. Bernard Dadie, now in his fifties, belongs to the first generation of francophone writers to emerge in tropical Africa, beyond the confines of Mudugascar or the *vieilles colonies* of Senegal. And his early life, as a brilliant pupil from the Ivory Coast, was forced into the sort of mould that had already been established for the training of the small Senegalese elite. This mould may be traced clearly enough in *Climbié*, which, like many first "novels" of its period, is an autobiographical account of the author's own boyhood and education, under the thinnest and most disposable of disguises.

Thus, after finishing his course at the *École Primaire Supérieure* in Bingerville, M. Dadie had to compete with children from all over French West Africa for the few prized places available at the *École William Ponty* in Gorée, far away in Senegal. And, after sampling the café and nightclub life of Dakar, so different from anything Grand Bassam then had to offer to the young black bourgeoisie, he remained in Dakar for another eleven years, returning to the Ivory Coast only in 1947, just in time to involve himself in the political campaigns of the *Rassemblement démocratique africain* which culminated in imprisonment and repression by a France not yet ready to relinquish even its formal control of the colony.

M. Dadie writes of this painfully selective and competitive upbringing

with considerable charm and affection. A kind of generalized nostalgia seems to blunt the many moments of bitterness, insecurity and fear which must often have dominated a childhood with such high and narrow objectives, conducted so completely within the framework of French colonial expectations, and in paths so divergent from those followed by his infant playmates in the sandy streets of Grand Bassam. Charm, indeed, is something that this author often applies too liberally, so that the record becomes not only selectively but distorted. Here is the speech he claims to have made to a European companion on driving for the first time into Saint-Louis, ancient capital of Senegal:

Ood forld, in Saint-Louis, at least, that the argument's actions be any less florid than the terraces of roses, all blooming under the joyous sun, its zinnias, tulips, dahlias, amaranths, its everlasting flowers.

*Climbié* can be read with sympathy and interest, but they are not of the kind normally brought to bear on fiction. The elements of fictional life are not present, since *Climbié*, the hero, is the only realized character in the book, and even his realization is largely confined to what he is. Books such as this are a valuable record of a particular phase of colonial education, but it is curious to reflect that *Climbié* was first published in 1956, the year which saw the appearance of three francophone novels of major importance: Mongo Beti's *Le Paysan Chien de Bonha* and Ferdinand Oyono's *Une vie de Boy* and *Le Vieux nègre et la médaille*. So, in that context, *Climbié* looks a curiously out-of-date book.

*Agatha Mondio's Son* abounds in that quality of fictional life which is so lacking in *Climbié*. Francis Bebey has spared us the story of his own life, travels and talents in order to plunge us into the daily activities and concerns of a small fishing village of the Cameroon Rivers. He writes with a simplicity and a directness

which constantly recall the traditional *roman*, as do his carefully-timed digressions, delays and interjections. The novel traces the matrimonial misadventures of Mbenda (colloquially known as "Le Lou"), a young peasant fisherman and champion wrestler. His first wife, an adolescent imposed on him by parental and chiefly wishes, presents him with a baby before he has even brought himself to touch her. When he follows his own long-standing choice and marries the beautiful, notorious Agatha Mondio, against the united opposition of the village, she presents him with a son of such unmistakable European piteness to us to make him a laughing-stock.

From all these humiliations, as from his quarrelling wives, Mbenda seeks consolation in the danger and companionship of the canoes, as they ride the huge Atlantic swells of the Right. M. Bebey writes of this life with a real sense of its grandeur, isolation and spectacular beauty, praising "the absolute horizon of days which dawn and die".

The dominant personalities of the village, deeply implicated in every twist of the plot, move through this book with absolute assurance and physical reality: King Solomon, the village elder, who is a befriendly and a Mother Evil Eyo who is a friend and a companion, with their rough and strong as rope; above all,

Agatha Mondio herself, who dazzles and torments him from the first page to the last.

M. Bebey, who already has an international reputation as a composer, singer and musician, here emerges as a novelist of skill and originality. *Agatha Mondio's Son* serves him well as a translation that does justice to his narrative cunning. But the quality of deployment of this cunning raises, no less than *Climbié*, the question of how far it is possible to fictionalize the francophone reading public. The extreme centralization of French political, educational and cultural policy appears to have produced a public that is more unified in its tastes and expectations than the varied one which now awaits the anglophone writer, and which seeks to make a fairly free choice of form, idiom, dialect and even syntax.

*Agatha Mondio's Son* was first published locally in Yaoundé, and for all that its technique is clearly related to African oral tradition, its tone is still instructional in a way that is not to be taken for granted. As say, Edward Brathwaite's *Rights of Passage*, Wilbur Harris's *Palace of the Peacock* or Amos Tutuola's *Palm-Wine Drinkard* are not. It may be many years yet before the effects of this intense cultural and linguistic control break down sufficiently to permit some real differentiation of audience and address within the francophone world.

### On March 17th we shall be publishing a REPORT ON IRISH WRITING

Special articles will be by the following contributors: DENIS DONOGHUE; THOMAS KILROY; JOHN MONTAGUE; BRIAN FRIEL; LIAM MILLER

Will intending advertisers kindly send their space bookings to: The Advertisement Manager, TLS, Printing House Square, London EC4P 4DE. Telephone: 01-236 2000

### February 24th THE RADICAL TRADITION IN EDUCATION IN BRITAIN

A collection of the writings by William Godwin, Thomas Paine, Robert Owen, Richard Carlile, William Thompson, William Lovett, and William Morris, who from the close of the eighteenth century played a key part in the formation of a radical tradition in the theory and practice of education. Introduction by BRIAN SIMON.

### March 23rd THE IRISH CRISIS C. Desmond Greaves

After examining at length the underlying causes of the present crisis in Northern Ireland, Mr Greaves turns to consider recent history and current problems. The ultimate solution, he concludes, must lie in a United Ireland. paperback £1

LAWRENCE & WISHART

## First Signs by Barry Hines Author of KES

This new novel is about the son of a Yorkshire miner trying to find an honourable way of living in a society whose values he distrusts.

"one realises what an impressive book this is, as compelling in its honesty as in its observation" Sunday Telegraph £2.20

Michael Joseph















**BY JOAN BLACK AND JOHN HOLLOWAY**

R. F. Johnson has a strong if not conclusive case and an article in a learned journal based on properly cited authorities and supported by the scientific arguments, included the in an appendix by R. D. Martin would have aroused well-earned specialized interest and controversy. In this book the main point

هكذا من الأصل



